

January 27, 2006

CIVIC CONNECTION

A Monthly News Service from the Division of Communications for Norfolk Civic Organizations

SAFE STREETS COMMUNITY SUMMIT – YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT

There is much to celebrate in Norfolk. We have experienced tremendous economic growth and development, downtown's renaissance continues, and residential development and neighborhood improvement is taking place across the city. All of these positive forces have put Norfolk on the national map as a great city that is becoming an even greater one.

Yet, all of us know how important it is that we continue working to strengthen all of our neighborhoods, ensuring they are safe, healthy, thriving, and desirable.

That is why I, on behalf of the entire City Council, invite you to participate in the **Community Summit on Safe Streets and Healthy Neighborhoods, 8:30 a.m. until noon on Saturday, February 4, at Ruffner Academy, 610 May Avenue.** This community meeting is free and open to the public and a continental breakfast will be served.

The purpose of the meeting is to collectively discuss ways the City can reenergize working with neighborhoods to identify problem areas, share methods currently being used to combat crime, and learn ways we can better serve our residents and strengthen our community partnerships.

To that end, we are pleased to welcome Kent Amos, the internationally acclaimed former Xerox executive, who founded the Urban Family Institute and Kids House, who has been featured on Oprah and the Today Show, and who privately has taken in some 80 children to rear and to educate. Amos, who lives in Washington, D.C., left the corporate world to create urban neighborhoods in which no child grows up without the close guidance, nurturing, discipline and support of caring adults. He is eager to share his experiences with us.

Your voice is a key to the success of this event. We need your participation to keep our city healthy, safe, and vital. Please RSVP today at 664-4242.

Mayor Paul D. Fraim

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TASK FORCE TARGETS SPOT BLIGHT IN NEIGHBORHOODS

A City and citizen task force is implementing a spot blight plan approved by City Council. The goal is to identify properties with long-standing codes violations and to develop plans to handle each one. In many cases, properties have stood vacant or in violation for years.

Resolutions for properties identified thus far have ranged from satisfactory owner rehabilitation, sale of property by owner to an individual or builder for rehab, working with owner to correct violations, or demolition. The initial focus is on Huntersville, Douglas Park, Brambleton, and Park Place, although other properties with long-standing violations have also been identified. The process in summary as follows:

1. Property maintenance, police, fire, NRHA or other city agency identifies a chronic violation property. A chronic violation property includes vacant boarded up buildings, property which is a haven for the criminal activity, property with serious structural issues, etc.
2. The spot blight group identifies a tool to use to solve the specific problem.
3. The group decides on a timetable for resolution (this may be adjusted if progress is being made).
4. If nothing is done, or an owner does not respond, a spot blight letter is sent giving the owner 30 days to fix the problems (or submit a plan to fix the problems) or the City will proceed to demolition.
5. Once a spot blight letter goes out, the property address is tagged in the computer system and no building permits can be issued until coordinated with Clark Ray, at Property Maintenance, to ensure that the owner's plan for the property meets with the approval of the city. If the owner wants to rehab the property, a meeting with the city attorney must occur.

DO YOU KNOW A PACE SETTER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME?

We are looking for extraordinary people who are PACE Setters in combating crime and the causes of crime in Norfolk, especially those "unsung heroes" who do so much and are often not recognized. Being mindful of the requirements for each award category, please describe the crime prevention accomplishments of your nominee in 2005. Please be specific and tell the whole story, i.e. (who, what, when, where, how and why). A nomination form is included with this issue of Civic Connection.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Barbara Davis Volunteer Award – presented to a private citizen of Norfolk who has played a key role in promoting, developing and/or maintaining crime prevention in Norfolk. *Married couples will be considered.*

Law Enforcement Award – presented to a Norfolk police officer or Norfolk deputy sheriff who has engaged in exceptional performance in preventing crime. *Individuals only will be considered.*

Youth Award – presented to a Norfolk youth under the age of 21 who has played a key role in promoting, developing, and/or maintaining crime prevention in Norfolk. *Individuals only will be considered.*

City Employee Award – presented to City of Norfolk employee, other than a police officer or deputy sheriff, who has played a key role in promoting, developing, and/or maintaining crime prevention in Norfolk. *Individuals only will be considered.*

Group Service Award – presented to a group or business that best represents the development or promotion of programs to stop, restrict or prevent crime in Norfolk in either residential or commercial areas. *Groups and businesses only will be considered.*

ADDITIONAL AWARD CRITERIA FOR ALL CATEGORIES

In addition to the criteria listed above, the following general criteria applies to all nominations:

The members of the selection committee, elected officials, officers of the Crime Prevention Section of the Norfolk Police Department, and deputy sheriffs in the Community Affairs Office are not eligible for these awards.

The awards are for achievements in the 2005 calendar year.

All nominations must be on the official (online or downloaded) form.

Each nomination must be accompanied by a narrative summary providing detailed and specific crime prevention activities of the nominee. Nomination length should be **at least 50 words and may be more.**

Letters of support from others who have direct knowledge of the nominees' contributions to crime prevention in Norfolk may be included as pdf or text documents in the on-line form, or mailed with the downloaded form.

No additional information (videotapes, newspaper clippings, etc.) will be considered as part of the nomination package.

Please keep in mind the definition of crime prevention in your nomination. (Crime prevention- the anticipation, recognition, and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of some action to reduce or eliminate that risk.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN NORFOLK'S FIRST "RELAY FOR LIFE"

This year, for the first time ever, Norfolk will host "Relay for Life," an overnight team event that seeks to increase cancer awareness in the community and raise money in the fight against cancer. Residents, businesses, churches and schools are invited to form teams of 8 to 15 people to participate in the 24 hour event.

Co-chaired by Vice Mayor Daun Hester and Councilman Randy Wright, with the American Cancer Society and Virginia Oncology Associates, the Norfolk Relay for Life event will be held June 2-3 on the grounds of Lake Taylor High School.

"Relay for Life is as much an effort to raise awareness about the progress we've made in getting closer to finding a cure for cancer as it is a fund raiser," said Councilman Wright.

"Many of the participants have survived cancer," said Vice Mayor Hester. "Their participation is proof that progress has been made in the fight against cancer and in the quality of life following cancer treatment."

After many years of corporate sponsorship and team participation, Virginia Oncology Associates is taking its relationship with the American Cancer Society and the city of Norfolk to a new level.

"It is an honor for us to be a sponsor of this great organization, the American Cancer Society," said Dr. Edward George, President of VOA. "It is even more of a privilege to commemorate their work as we announce a new Norfolk mermaid - the Relay for Life Mermaid - which symbolizes the importance of cancer awareness and the timeless search for new, more effective cancer therapies. We are proud to have the mermaid on our campus as a symbol of the spirit and viability of cancer patients and our commitment to their health."

Relay for Life is a unique opportunity for our community to come together in the fight against cancer. It is also a celebration of life honoring cancer survivors. Teams of 8-

15 people come together to raise money for the American Cancer Society which supports patient services, advocacy campaigns, education, and vital cancer research.

Funds raised at Relay for Life will enable the American Cancer Society to support local services and resources for cancer patients and their families. Funds also support critical cancer research and community education programs designed to teach people how to reduce their risk of developing cancer. For more information, go to www.norfolk.gov and click on the Relay for Life section.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED FOR CENTRAL HAMPTON BOULEVARD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A community open house is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th to create a comprehensive plan for the areas surrounding Central Hampton Boulevard. The meeting will be held at Larchmont Elementary School from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM and will begin community dialogue around issues such as housing, parks, traffic, and economic development. The open house is the first step in a series of planned community meetings over the next several months.

WHILE *GEORGE WASHINGTON* IS BEING WORKED ON, CREW WORKS IN NORFOLK

Over four days, 1,403 volunteers from the USS George Washington worked with City agencies to accomplish scores of tasks to improve the quality of life for the residents of Norfolk – the aircraft carrier's homeport. Their ship was in port for repairs.

Overall support provided:

1,403 volunteers over four days.

6,909 hours of volunteer labor.

\$124,362 – Approximate value of labor.

Work that was accomplished:

Home and Facility Repairs

Volunteers worked on the homes of four senior citizens.

(Ingleside) – Removal and disposal of contaminated and rotted furnishings and building materials; Clearing and disposal of overgrown shrubs and brush; Building now ready for further renovations.

(Campostella) – Insulation installed under house; Repairs to a shed; Exterior painting; Repairs to front porch.

(Fairmount Park)- Clearing out of junk furniture, debris

(Snug Harbor) – Removal of junk furniture; Clearing exterior lot of debris, shrubs and brush.

Litter Cleanup - Over 25,000 lbs. of litter was collected throughout the City.

Thorough collection in targeted Safe Streets Neighborhoods including Olde Huntersville, Denby park, and Lindenwood.

Collection along major arterials.

Collection in Northside and Lafayette Park, Barraud Park, Harbor Park, Maritime Sandhills, Lake Taylor shoreline and the Lake Whitehurst Fishing Station.

Collection at several City parking lots including Cedar Grove and Downtown Plaza.

Collection at storm water collection areas.

Painting

Cleaning up and painting of Fire Station .

Painting of 4- 30 cubic yard drop off recycling containers

Painting of Union Mission Thrift Store

Painting of Norfolk Animal Control Center

Painting and cleaning at Tidewater Aids Crisis Task Force Building

Moving, Hauling

10,000 square feet of old carpeting was removed at Nauticus.

Moving of materials, furnishings and supplies at Nauticus.

Moving of furniture and supplies at Union Mission.

Public Education/Information

Distributed approximately 5,000 door hangers to promote participation in the curbside recycling program.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY REVISES GRANT ALLOCATION PROCESS

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management held stakeholders' meetings this week with more than 200 local and state partners from all emergency and first responder disciplines. The meeting's purpose was to determine priorities and discuss options in response to the development of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP).

The City has been advised that 2006 grant funding will go toward the NIPP and 11 of 37 "Target Capabilities" identified in the plan. States are required to submit a plan for grant funds that demonstrates both need and potential impact. Grant funds will be allocated according to the submitted plan. Under the NIPP, states are required to disburse 80 percent of funding to localities. This allocation is yet to be determined and is based on the state's allocation amount and approved projects.

Based on the new grant formula, it appears that Virginia should fair well due to the state's critical infrastructure. Much of this infrastructure is located Hampton Roads so the City is hoping to see an increase in 2006 grant funding.

VIRGINIA TOBACCO SETTLEMENT GRANT AWARDED TO CITY

The Board of Trustees of the Virginia Tobacco Settlement Fund (VTSF) has approved grant funding in the amount of \$221,797 for the "Norfolk Life Skills Training Program". The mission of this fund is to lead a statewide effort to reduce and prevent the use of tobacco products by youth in Virginia.

The City's program is designed "to help youth under the age of 18 refrain from, or discontinue use of, tobacco". Program goals also focus on substance abuse prevention, youth empowerment and social skills building.

The successful grant application was written by the Office of Grants Management in collaboration with the Norfolk Community Services Board and the City's Division of Youth Development. Grant funding is for three years beginning in July 2006 and will provide funding for one Counselor III to work at Coronado School during school hours. The Counselor will also provide services in support of the new after school initiative at Lake Taylor Middle School, which is the other key activity area of the grant.

NORFOLK IS TSUNAMI AND STORM READY

The City of Norfolk has been designated the first major East Coast city as TsunamiReady, joining 23 TsunamiReady communities along the West Coast of the U.S., Hawaii, Alaska and Florida. Norfolk is also one of approximately 1,000 StormReady communities in 49 states.

Since the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the U.S. has expanded its tsunami warning capability. Community preparedness, through NOAA's TsunamiReady program, is a key component of this effort. NOAA will place the first tsunami-detecting buoys in the Atlantic Ocean. The buoys will be able to detect the giant waves more quickly than tide gauges and seismometers.

If a tsunami is detected, Norfolk's plan calls for warning to go out and emergency plans to be activated. Such warnings could have saved thousands in the 2004 Indian Ocean event.

NOAA has developed a new exhibit on display at Nautics that shows the impact of an underwater earthquake near Puerto Rico and the ensuing 10- to 15-foot waves that could hit the mid-Atlantic shoreline three hours later.



NORFOLK'S DOWNTOWN ALLEYS GETTING A FACELIFT

With more and more residents and businesses moving into downtown, a multi-departmental task force, which includes Public Works, Development, Neighborhood

Preservation and Public Health, is working to improve the condition of the downtown alleys that run between and behind many buildings.

The task force has met with representatives from the Downtown Norfolk Council, residents, property owners, and tenants to discuss issues which include: unsightly and smelly garbage cans; litter; poor drainage; poor pavement conditions; parking; and code enforcement.

Based on these discussions, specific plans are being developed to address these issues. Action underway includes efforts to cover, enclose and/or remove garbage cans; prevent garbage grease and litter from mixing with storm water runoff; enhance paved surfaces; improve drainage; eliminate illegal parking; improve lighting; enhance the overall safety and appearance of the alleys; and identify policies to preclude or minimize problems when further construction takes place.

These improvements are already underway on Lowenberg Lane between Brooke and Tazewell Streets. The taskforce is working to have the Lowenberg Lane improvements completed by this May.

NORFOLK'S BUILDING INSPECTION EFFECTIVENESS RANKED IN TOP 1 PERCENT IN COUNTRY

The City of Norfolk has received a rating of 2 from the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) for building code effectiveness for both residential and commercial inspection services. This puts Norfolk in a ratings category that is above the 99 percentile for the entire nation for both commercial and residential inspection. Nationally, just 6 jurisdictions have a better effectiveness rating than Norfolk.

The ISO evaluates each city and county's effectiveness every five years using a scale of one (top) to 10, using the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS). The three major areas of review are: administration of codes, review of building plans, and field inspections. BCEGS also places special emphasis on mitigation of losses from natural hazards.

The ISO rating is one of the best independent evaluations for effectiveness of a city's building safety program. This evaluation allows jurisdictions to determine how they compare with other communities throughout the nation and make determinations regarding what improvements are needed to increase their organization's effectiveness.

More importantly, for our residents, since this is a baseline rating system, it is used by insurance companies across the nation as part of their rate setting process. Last cycle, the City of Norfolk received a rating of 4. The new rating provides the opportunity for insurance companies to reduce rates for their customers within the City.

CITY COUNCIL HONORS TWO POLICE OFFICERS

Two Norfolk Police Officers were honored for the gallantry under fire by the National Association of Police Officers (NAPO) and were commended by City Council recently.

Officers Jemal Davis and Windsor Brabson were selected for the TOPCOPS national award for the bravery and courage that they displayed during an undercover drug operation at the Gallery at Military Circle on June 11, 2004.

Despite being seriously wounded during an exchange of gunfire, Officers Davis and Brabson were able to return gunfire and apprehend the suspects.

They were nominated for the national award by fellow Norfolk police officers, and selected from several hundred nominations submitted police departments from throughout the United States.

COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE'S OFFICE TO PROVIDE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES

The Commissioner of the Revenue's Office has become a DMV Select Agent. This affiliation with DMV will enable the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office to handle new and renew registrations, titles, and personalized license plate orders. The Commissioner's Office anticipates that this one-stop service to residents and businesses in the City will provide greater convenience as well as enhance staff's discovery of new vehicle registrations because we will be able to accommodate both the State and local registration in one location for our citizens.

2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY OF NORFOLK

- 1) City Charter Changes:** Amendments are needed to the Norfolk City Charter to reduce the annual number of City Council meetings. Council can currently cancel 12 meetings per year, and the proposed amendment would change that to 16. Secondly, amendments are requested to require an affirmative vote of three-fourths of Council for the sale of public property.
- 2) Conference Center Sales Tax Capture:** Amend Section 58.1-608.3 of the *Code of Virginia* to include the City of Norfolk through population brackets. The change will enable the proposed Norfolk Hotel and Conference Center at 200 Main Street to repay bonds by capturing the generation of sales tax.
- 3) Housing Trust Fund:** The City requests the Commonwealth to establish a State Housing Trust Fund. This fund will provide matching funds to localities that already

have, or will establish within one fiscal year, housing trust funds that help finance affordable housing and permanent supportive housing for the homeless. Localities will be required to provide local revenue or corporate sources as matching funds.

Note: The Virginia Housing Commission has endorsed a draft proposal for the creation of the Virginia Housing Partnership Trust fund that would be funded by dedicating a portion of state recordation tax revenues. The fund has also been included in the Governor's introduced budget.

- 4) **Real Estate Tax:** The City Council requests the General Assembly to Establish a tax exemption program based on following:
- o Single family owner-occupied residence
 - o Primary residence and in residence for at least five years
 - o Assessment increased by a certain amount
 - o Moderate income (but not eligible for any senior/disabled tax relief program)
 - o Exempt homeowner from paying a certain portion of his or her taxes
- 5) **Norfolk Electric Transit Bus Replacement:** The City requests \$7 million to replace the current NET buses operating in Downtown Norfolk. This request has been made officially to Governor Warner through the interim report of the Commission on Urbanized Transportation chaired by Councilman Randy Wright.

REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE ISSUES

- 1) **Hampton Roads 2030 Regional Transportation Plan:** the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Planning Organization & Planning District Commission recently endorsed a package of projects and funding recommendation for our 2030 Regional Transportation Plan.

The plan includes: the Third Crossing, the Southeastern Parkway, expansion of the Midtown Tunnel and Martin Luther King Freeway Extension, an upgrade to Route 460, and improving I-64 on the Peninsula and the Southside.

The MPO has endorsed a concept to place tolls on each of these facilities as well as begin tolls on existing parallel facilities. In addition to tolls, other revenues are necessary in order to begin construction at the earliest possible date. The reality is however, that without substantial investment by the Commonwealth, most, if not all, of these projects will not be built in the foreseeable future. The General Assembly should take action, this session to address these investment shortfalls in order to provide for the best transportation network our state can offer.

- 2) **Codification of Joint Land Use Study:** The General Assembly is requested to enact legislation to implement recommendations contained within the Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) between the cities of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk and the U.S. Navy and to codify the implementation plan required by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission to guarantee the future of Naval Air Station Oceana as a Master Jet Base.
- 3) **Re-benchmark K-12 Education Standards of Quality:** The current proposed changes resulting from re-benchmarking Direct Aid would increase state costs for public education by approximately \$986.0 million in the 2006-2008 biennium. The re-benchmarked cost of the unfunded SOQ changes proposed by the Board of Education total \$191.5 million. Together, these re-benchmarked costs would increase Direct Aid funding by \$1.18 billion in the 2006-2008 biennium.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- 1) **Nauticus Port Exhibit:** Nauticus is requesting \$500,000 in the non-state agency category of the biennial budget to assist with the development of the Port of Virginia exhibit.
- 2) **Eastern Virginia Medical School:** EVMS is requesting an additional \$4.9 million in funding. According to the State's Base Adequacy Guidelines, EVMS is significantly under-funded. Only this year, in fact, did it reach 52 percent of State funding levels for public institutions, which are generally at or above 95 percent.

ISSUES TO MONITOR

- 1) **Cable Franchising:** The City of Norfolk opposes any efforts to change current cable franchise policy and practice in Virginia, including the "Verizon" proposal that would establish franchising "by right" within the Commonwealth.
- 2) **Eminent Domain Authority:** The City supports retention of current eminent domain authority for localities.

Note: We are analyzing the proposal recently endorsed by the Virginia Housing Commission, which establishes a more explicit definition of the term public use under 15.2-1800.

- 3) **Telecommunications Taxation:** The City of Norfolk opposes the telecommunications taxation proposal that would replace all current taxes and fees with one flat rate sales tax.

FUTURE ISSUES

- 1) Prostitution- Repeat Offenders:** The City considered requesting that the General Assembly create mandatory minimums for second prostitution offenses. Norfolk has over 150 convictions per year, and 40% are repeat offenders. In lieu of legislation, Second Chances will provide for a 12-week Prostitution Prevention program to be administered outside of the jail, thereby offering the opportunity for offenders that receive suspended sentences an option to attend the program. Working in partnership with the Commonwealth's Attorney, the program will be offered for first time offenders. The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office will report data on recidivism rates in mid-2006 to determine success level of program.

For more information, contact: City of Norfolk; Office of Intergovernmental Relations; 810 Union Street, Suite 401; Norfolk, Virginia 23510; TELE (757) 664-4468 FAX (757) 664-4263

THE LATEST ON LIGHT RAIL

At the December meeting of the Downtown Norfolk Council Board of Directors, Councilman Randy Wright updated the Board on the latest developments that are bringing Norfolk's Light Rail Starter line closer to becoming reality. Included in these developments is the Memorandum Of Understanding between the City of Norfolk and Norfolk Southern to purchase the freight rail corridor east of downtown extending to the border of the City of Virginia Beach.

Proposed LRT Starter Line Route & Schedule Characteristics:

- 7.4 miles of double LRT track with 11 stations – running from the vicinity of Newtown Road to the Medical Center.
- The route will be primarily an at-grade alignment with elevated grade crossings at Brambleton Avenue near NSU and at two Norfolk Southern Railway crossings.
- \$203.7 million capital cost
- 9 low-floor LRT vehicles
- Proposed schedule of operation is 7 days per week from 6 am to midnight
- Proposed Service frequencies are:
 - Peak Periods - 7.5 minutes;
 - Midday and Evening Periods – 15 minutes;
 - Late Evening Periods – 30 minutes.
- Upgraded feeder bus system
- Ridership forecast: 6,500 – 12,000 persons per day

As currently configured, the downtown route leaves the Civic Center complex (City Hall); and crosses St. Paul's Blvd. to Plume Street. At Bank Street, the alignment veers to the right through the existing site of the Kirn Memorial Library to City Hall Ave.

The route turns right at Monticello Ave. and moves to Charlotte Street where it will take a left, crossing Boush Street and Duke Street then moving to York Street, across the Brambleton Ave. Bridge and ending at Fort Norfolk and the medical center. There has been interest from Old Dominion University to extend the route but as yet, there are no alignment proposals for this extension.

OFFICE TO END HOMELESSNESS WORKS TO ADDRESS DOWNTOWN BUSINESS CONCERNS

A small group of downtown business owners and employees have recently circulated complaints regarding their perception of an increase in the homeless population in the downtown area.

The Office to End Homelessness has reviewed the groups concerns and is continuing its work with various social service as well as community based organizations to meet the needs of the City's homeless population in response to these concerns.

The Office surveyed the areas in question on numerous occasions, collected data from area homeless shelters and the Police Department, as well as discussed this issue with other downtown businesses. It is our determination that the complaints are primarily attributed to the NEST program drop off and the increase in construction activity in downtown.

The NEST program has experienced a small increase in the number of homeless individuals seeking shelter through the churches program. However, we believe the perceived increase is coming from the drop off of homeless individuals by the program in the morning, which leads to a short-term increase of homeless persons in downtown. There are also construction workers who have been mistaken for homeless individuals. Many construction workers in downtown take breaks in the parks or other visible areas and are mistaken for homeless persons. The Police Department has found no increase in complaints of panhandling or other illegal activity by homeless persons in downtown.

The number of homeless individuals requesting services from the Salvation Army, Union Mission, and the Department of Human Services are consistent with expected conditions for this time of year. Based on discussions with staff of the Downtown Norfolk Council (DNC), we estimate there are approximately 15 to 20 homeless persons who are routinely found downtown. Another 20 to 30 individuals have been identified as occasional visitors.

By the end of the current calendar year, we anticipate some 70 permanent housing units to be newly available for the homeless. Fifty-four of these will specifically target the chronically homeless. Therefore, if the numbers of homeless are consistent, we will see a tangible difference in the numbers of "street" homeless by next year.

THE BEAZLEY FOUNDATION AWARDS \$25,000 GRANT TO PILOT SCHOONER VIRGINIA

The Pilot Schooner Virginia recently was awarded a \$25,000 grant from The Beazley Foundation in support of its ongoing educational outreach efforts. Based in Portsmouth, Va., the Beazley Foundation supports educational opportunities for young people throughout Hampton Roads from early childhood through college.

The grant funds will be used to sustain part of the original mission of Virginia by providing an educational platform for K - 12 students that spans all major educational disciplines and directly supports the state's Standards of Learning. This innovative setting offers a synergistic learning experience aboard a historic, yet living, vehicle. In addition to youth sail training and touring opportunities, students may access the Virginia Maritime Heritage Foundation Geographic Information System from their classroom.

"The Foundation's Board of Trustees was moved by Virginia's compelling educational component," says Judge Richard S. Bray, president of The Beazley Foundation. "The interface of the ship's operations and utilization of technology to connect portals worldwide provides opportunities to students here in the Hampton Roads region that cannot be gained elsewhere."

All of Virginia's educational programs are coordinated and administered by a full-time director of education based in the Virginia Maritime Heritage Foundation office. The position includes curriculum development, volunteer teacher organization, program development, tour and program scheduling, research and development of new programs, and professional development. Additional management oversight and guidance is provided by the Education Committee of the Board of Directors and an Educators' Advisory Council formed in Sept. 2001 and composed of a cross section of educators from around the Commonwealth.

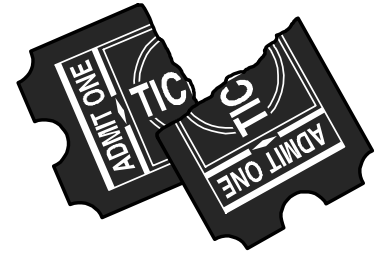
The Beazley Foundation was founded in 1948 with funds provided by the late Fred W. Beazley, his wife and son, all of Portsmouth, Va. The needs of community and young people have been the primary focus of Mr. Beazley's philanthropy, with health care, housing, education, recreation and similar concerns resulting in substantial Foundation grants to an array of organizations and programs serving southeastern Virginia. Mr. Beazley's legacy continues today with more than \$3.3 million in grants awarded by the Foundation during 2005. For more information, visit www.BeazleyFoundation.org.

The Pilot Schooner Virginia was built to sail around the globe as Virginia's first Tall Ship. It is a replica of the original 1917 vessel bearing the same name. For more information on the Pilot Schooner Virginia project, educational programs, in-kind donations, sponsorships or memberships, call #757/627-7400 or click on www.schoonervirginia.org.

LION KING RULES THE BOX OFFICE

The total gross number of tickets available for this event was 100,181, of which only 1,468 tickets went unsold.

Gross ticket sales have exceeded the 1996 blockbuster production of Phantom of the Opera, which grossed \$6.4 million with 54 show dates. Lion King's total is approaching \$6.5 million in only 45 show dates.



	Gross Sold
Total Tickets Sold	98,713
Total Gross Sales	\$ 6,486,574.00

The impact on downtown restaurants, others businesses and parking has been substantial. Approximately 15% of all tickets were sold to individuals outside of Virginia/North Carolina. Disney has been pleased with the response from the public as well as the support provided by the City. Hopefully, the City will have opportunities in the future to host more shows like the Lion King.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TAXI STANDS IN DOWNTOWN

City staff from Police, Parking and Public Works has been working collaboratively with the Downtown Norfolk Council to improve taxi cab service in the Granby Street District. Two taxi cab stands are planned to begin operation this month to ensure prompt and reliable service for downtown visitors. The locations were selected after a thorough review process that included input from the business community and local cab companies.

The first stand will be located in the parking area adjacent to the Granby Municipal Building and will serve the businesses along the 300-400 blocks of Granby Street. The second stand will be located on Market Street between Granby and Monticello. This stand will serve the businesses along the 200-300 blocks of Granby. The Responsible Hospitality Committee of the DNC is also working with the City on marketing and public information to promote the use of taxis at these locations. Both stands will be designated for evenings only (6:00 PM to 6:00 AM) so as to not interfere with daytime parking demands.



FIRE AT SELDEN ARCADE CAUSES ONLY MINOR DAMAGE

A contractor, who was welding on a new structural shear wall in the Selden Arcade, accidentally ignited some piping insulation on Friday, December 30th. The welding was part of a project to provide additional stability to the building. The fire department quickly responded and extinguished the fire. There was only minor damage and staff was able to have the facility ready for an upcoming event the next evening.

STAFF REVIEWING POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF FEDERAL FUNDING REDUCTIONS

City staff is reviewing the potential impacts on federal funding reductions resulting from the “Across-the-Board Cut of 1 Percent in All Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriations Bills”. These funding reductions affect all agencies with the exception of the Department of Veterans Affairs and off-budget emergency spending for Iraq/Afghanistan, Katrina relief and bird flu. The cut will apply retroactively to all fiscal year 2006 appropriations bills enacted previously, as well as to any remaining 2006 spending. The cut will save \$8.5 billion.

Of particular interest are potential reductions to discretionary transportation programs including reductions to all fiscal year 2006 contract authority for highways, highway safety and mass transit authorized by the recently enacted SAFETEA-LU law. As you are probably already aware, some level of reduction takes place each year under the annual obligation limitation process. Last year, for example, SAFETEA-LU projects were only able to use 85.5 percent of their fiscal year 2005 installments of contract authority. For specific SAFETEA-LU earmarked projects, the effect is cumulative, since almost all such projects have their funding distributed evenly over a series of years. However, due to the 1 percent across-the-board rescission that was added to the conference report funding the Department of Defense, the potential impact to local transportation projects of interest could be greater. An update on these impacts will be provided to the full Council before the end of January.

NEW INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE WILL FACILITATE RE-USE OF OLDER STRUCTURES

Virginia has adopted the 2003 edition of the International Building Code. The adoption of this new code includes the newly developed International Existing Building Code (IEBC). The IEBC will facilitate the rehabilitation of older buildings that have difficulty meeting requirements for new structures. The IEBC also allows for greater re-use and decreases the costs associated with rehabilitating older buildings by offering “trade-offs” in lieu of strict compliance with the current code.

Presentations on the changes in these new codes have been provided to the Tidewater Builder's Association and the East Beach Builder's Guild by the City. Additionally, Building Construction Services staff will assist architects and owners with questions regarding the IEBC.

COMMUNITY WIDE EFFORT MAKES PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT A SUCCESS

The City was one of 22 communities that participated in National Project Homeless Connect. The event, targeting single homeless adults in Norfolk, was part of a simultaneous nationwide effort designed to connect homeless persons to services through street outreach and one-stop service delivery.

The event which was held at Scope was able to connect 302 homeless clients to a variety of services. Key statistics from the event included:

- ☐ Provided medical screenings to 175 individuals
- ☐ Registered 135 clients with the Virginia Employment Commission
- ☐ Provided permanent housing to 10 clients (down payment and first month's rental assistance)
- ☐ Placed seven (7) families in short-term housing
- ☐ Processed 70 applications for various benefits programs
- ☐ Processed 31 legal cases

Staff and all the volunteers should be commended for conducting such a well organized event; especially considering that this was a first time event for Norfolk. An evaluation is now underway to determine how events such as this one that outreach to the homeless community can be improved.

REVIEW OF CDBG GRANT APPLICATIONS UNDERWAY

The Office of Grants Management has begun the initial review of all applications. Grants Management staff will work with the City's Internal Work Group, which is made up of staff from various City departments and the Citizen's Advisory Group to rate applications based on: eligibility under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines; priorities as set by the Consolidated Plan; and City Council priorities.

The Citizen's Advisory Group, who were selected by City Council, did an excellent job in their review of last year's applications will work with the office to review applications. Recommendations will be ready for the Planning Commission in February. The Planning Commission, after holding a public hearing, will make recommendations.

The Council will receive the CDBG recommendations in April as part of the proposed budget process.

RESPONSIBLE HOSPITALITY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY

During the week of February 6th, representatives from Responsible Hospitality Institute (RHI) will facilitate four separate roundtable discussions. The purpose of these discussions is to better understand the issues that face our community and prioritize action items to be addressed as a part of the Responsible Hospitality grant received by the Downtown Norfolk Council. The four discussions will focus separately on Safety, Hospitality, Community and Development.

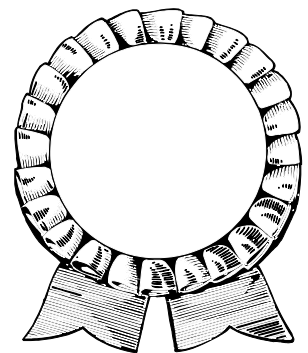
In the meantime, Norfolk's Responsible Hospitality Partnership continues to make progress. Through the efforts of the partnership and with great cooperation from the City of Norfolk's Parking Division, Police Department and Public Works Department, two taxi stands are being considered for the Granby Street area.

One location is on Market Street between Granby Street and Monticello Ave; the other is located in the parking lot to the north of the Granby Municipal Building at 300 Granby Street. The location of these taxi stands will encourage people to take a taxi rather than driving if they have had too much to drink. DNC will develop an informational card for restaurants and bars to distribute to those in need of the service.

NORFOLK ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION HONORED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

The Norfolk Environmental Commission (NEC) has received the 2005 President's Circle Award, which recognizes the NEC for meeting the standards of excellence achieved as an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. This award was presented to Executive Director John Deuel at the recent National Conference in Orlando, Florida. Additionally, the NEC will be recognized for distinguished performance by the Elizabeth River Project with a Riverstar at the annual Riverstars Awards Luncheon on January 19, 2006.

The Norfolk Environmental Commission, under the direction of the Department of Public Works, organized events involving 14,935 volunteers in fiscal year 2005. The Commission also did extensive outreach work that included environmental education programs for over 4,700 students as well as community outreach presentations to 1,826 adults. For every tax dollar contributed to the NEC, there was a resulting benefit of \$4.69 in volunteer labor, private donations, and other value to the City.



ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER SAYS FAREWELL

After working in local government since 1970, ACM Jeff Muzzy has decided to "call it a day". Muzzy said it was a very difficult decision, but that he felt compelled to make a new life plan after he recently received his ICMA (International City/County Management Association) Service Award for 35 years of local government service. Assistant City Manager Stanley Stein will take over the role of Acting Planning Director and Jeff's other assignments will be distributed among the other Assistant City Managers.

NATIONAL MARITIME CENTER SELECTED AS OCEAN EXPLORATION ALLIANCE PARTNER

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency's (NOAA) Office of Ocean Exploration has selected The National Maritime Center (TNMC) to be an Ocean Exploration Alliance partner. Norfolk will join a select number of facilities from around the nation (Audubon Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans, Aquarium of the Pacific in California, Hatfield Marine Science Center at Oregon State University, Monterey Bay Aquarium in California, New England Aquarium in Boston, Pier Aquarium in Florida, and South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston) as the first science center partners in this program.

The partnership was created by NOAA to provide oceanography training to middle school and high school teachers through a series of workshops. TNMC's specialty is K-7, so the program has been adapted to this strength and is in alignment with Virginia's SOL requirements. TNMC staff will work with NOAA staff to train Portsmouth 5th grade teachers and possibly a few high school teachers. Portsmouth was chosen for this first phase of the training in an effort to outreach to school systems outside of the City. The first workshop is scheduled to begin in 2006 and TNMC will have approximately \$29,000 to use for this training.

TNMC has also received notification of an award of \$25,000 to develop an exhibit about tsunamis and NOAA's research into these deadly events. With an approximate opening date of Summer 2006, the "TsunamiReady" exhibit will include an interactive computer kiosk about tsunami science and warning mechanisms, NOAA's official 'evacuation route', 'hazard zone' signs, and a model of a NOAA DART buoy used to monitor tidal wave activity. The exhibit will be designed in-house and will be used by NOAA as a national model for successful government-science museum partnerships.

NORFOLK SITES NOMINATED FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

The State Review Board of the Department of Historic Resources has included three Norfolk sites among 33 nominations for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The three locations are:

- ☐ Lambert's Point Knitting Mill (#122-0934)
- ☐ Park Place Historic District (#122-5087)
- ☐ Queen Street Baptist Church (#122-0165)

NORFOLK IN THE NEWS: FROM THE *PHILADELPHIA SUN*

“One of the most delightful things about the city is the fact that though much of Norfolk should be experienced on a walking tour, transportation options are numerous. Visitors can see the sights by car, trolley, a free electric shuttle or opt for a boat or ferry ride to catch the view from the water.

There are several hotels on or near the harbor. The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel, 777 Waterside Drive, is a wonderful choice because it is walking distance from most of the significant sites, and is adjacent to great shopping and dining in the Waterfront Marketplace. Guest rooms provide either city or harbor views or a Sweet Sleeper bed. As well as the standard amenities there are a seasonal pool, fitness center and restaurant.

Before we set out I had best warn you that Norfolk is marvelous city, inhabited by fantastical creatures and mermaid sightings are routine. “Mermaids on Parade”, was inaugurated in 2000 using a mold that replicated the “new” Norfolk logo. Today there are literally hundreds of 4 by 10-ft, fiberglass mermaids, creatively decorated by individuals and various organizations, displayed throughout the city. You can get a map of their locations or stumble upon them, my preferred method, for a series of constant surprises.”

CITY UPDATES

BOTANICAL GARDEN

GREAT SADNESS AT THE GARDEN

It is with great sadness that Norfolk Botanical Garden announces it has lost a large link to its past, an icon of its history, a woman whose hard work will not be forgotten. Ms. Edna Joyce, the last surviving planter of the original Garden has died. According to her family, Ms. Joyce passed away on Friday at Chesapeake General Hospital.

Ms. Joyce was a teenager in 1938 when she and 199 other African American women and 20 African American men were hired to clear and plant 30 acres of land around Mirror Lake to create an azalea garden. With funding from a Works Progress Administration grant, for four years the 220 original workers took on the back-breaking task of clearing trees, pulling roots, removing stumps and planting many different varieties of azaleas and other flowers.

Recently, Ms. Joyce has drawn much attention from the Norfolk community, mostly because of the efforts of Ruffner Academy's Community Problem Solving Team (CMPS). The 6th through 10th grade students spent two years digging into Norfolk Botanical Garden's history. CMPS members interviewed relatives of eight other WPA workers, but focused on recording Ms. Joyce's first-hand account of the creation of the Garden. Last summer their project, "Digging into Repressed Times", or DIRT, won top honors at the International Conference of Problem Solving in Kentucky.

Ms. Joyce's story and the students' dedication and passion to create an authentic product not only led them to a first place victory, but also positively impacted our community. The team's research helped support the nomination of Norfolk Botanical Garden to the Virginia State and National Historical Registries, prepare a presentation for Back to our Roots, an educational program for Black History month, and inspired an offshoot project, a community garden at Ruffner Academy. Their telling of Ms. Joyce's story also paved the way for the permanent placement of a commemorative brick outside the Garden's Education Wing in her honor. In August, Ms. Joyce and her church group came out to enjoy the Garden, and for the first time were able to see the brick that bears her name.

Last January, Ms. Joyce was featured in the Virginian-Pilot's African American Today. In December of 2004 she came to the Garden to be photographed for the paper's special January section. It was only the second time she had been here since the 1940's. On that day, she toured the acreage around Mirror Lake. She was able to see the part of

the Garden where, because of her hard work, hundreds of azaleas, rhododendrons and other flowers now line the pathways.

Without the efforts of Edna Joyce and the 219 other workers, our Garden would not have grown. Her hands, her strength, her sweat helped cultivate what became 155 acres of pristine beauty. But to those of us who had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Joyce, she was so much more than a planter. She was a link to our living history we held in highest regard. She was respected and honored by our staff as well as our visitors. She had a smile that beamed and a laugh so sweet you couldn't help but hug her. Just being in her presence lifted your heart and spirit. And now that she's passed, her memory will live on in the trees, shrubs and thousands of flowers she helped create.

BOTANICAL GARDEN SEEKS DESIGNS TO COMMEMORATE ORIGINAL WORKFORCE

Norfolk Botanical Garden is holding a regional competition for a work of art to commemorate its founding workforce. The Garden was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its historic significance as a 1938 Works Progress Administration project built mostly by African-American women.

The Garden's rich history began when the City of Norfolk secured a WPA grant to clear the tree-filled swampland adjacent to the municipal airport. Through the grant, 200 African-American women and 20 African-American men cleared 25 acres of dense vegetation with pickaxes, hoes and shovels – fighting off bugs and water moccasins. When the land was cleared, the women and men planted four thousand azalea plants, two thousand rhododendron and several thousand miscellaneous shrubs and trees.

To commemorate these workers and the Garden's place in the region's history, proposed designs for a work of art are being sought through a regional competition. The Request for Proposals can be found at <http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org>. The winning design will be completed and unveiled during the Garden's 70th anniversary in 2008.

In 2003, gifted students from Ruffner Academy's Community Problem Solving Team conceived of Project D.I.R.T. (Digging Into Repressed Times). Over a two-year period, the students identified and contacted the families of the original workers as well as the only known survivor, Edna Joyce, and captured their oral histories on videotape. The team's project won an international award in early 2005 and was recognized by Norfolk City Council and Mayor Paul Fraim.



The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation and is comprised of 79,000 listings, including 2300 National Landmarks. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources.

Cheryl White, an Old Dominion University graduate student, worked in conjunction with NBG staff to research and prepare the applications for the state and national designations.

World of Wonders is Taking Shape. The Norfolk Botanical Garden's "World of Wonders" children's garden is taking shape. A few months ago, the three-acre garden located in the center of the Botanical Garden, looked like a field of dirt and gravel. Today, there are several key areas in creation. "With construction of the education building and tunnel significantly complete, the project is on target for a fall 2006 opening," confirmed Cregg Fortin, Construction Inspector I-Design Division.

Six "Passport Gardens" comprise World of Wonders (WOW): Ithaca Isle (Mediterranean Chaparral), Werowocomoco Woods (Eastern U.S. Deciduous Forest), Oodnadatta Outback (Australian Outback), Amazonia (South American Rain Forest), Serengeti Savanna (African Grassland) and Kamchatka Taiga (Northern Coniferous Forest).

Favorable summer weather contributed to the construction of the Learning Lab, a 2000 square foot building containing five classrooms, huge window views, and a gift shop. Contractors also laid the foundation for several learning circles, installed an overlook, assembled a bridge, and built pathways to connect the gardens. "Erecting the building this summer was essential so that interior work could be completed during winter months," Fortin said.

Last fall, the contractor installed an underground tunnel west of the Learning Lab, which is part of the Global Gateway entrance into WOW. The contractor also readied the project for fountains, bubble stations, and jet sprays throughout the garden.

Early this month, work began to create tribal ruins, a rainforest canopy, and rock art similar to the rock formations created at the Norfolk Zoo. The formations are composed of traditional poured concrete foundation, wire mesh, rebar and sprayed on concrete, termed *Shotcrete*. "These guys aren't just contractors, they're artists," Fortin added.

In the coming months, construction of interactive sites will commence. Crews will build an inchworm tunnel for kids to crawl through, a dirt village, a tree house, a sundial, a gigantic calendar, as well as wetlands, a desert, and forest areas. Finally, workers will install plants and flowers throughout the garden with emphasis on color and beauty. "Children will have a wonderful time at World of Wonders," said Fortin (an expectant father). "I can't wait for my son to experience it."

Renovations to the New Chrysler Hall Restroom Facilities are partially done.

Renovations to improve the restroom facilities on the orchestra and dress circle levels at Chrysler Hall were completed on schedule. Crews added new automated lavatory fixtures, wall sconces, overhead lights, wall, floor and ceiling tile. The final inspection was completed a few days before the event. "All parties worked well together," King said, "and our customer, CPA&E, is pleased with the progress."

A new family changing room was also constructed on the orchestra level. The room provides privacy for parents, children, and other patrons. In addition, work was recently completed on the balcony level (third floor) with construction of two new restrooms installed between scheduled events. Restroom construction at Chrysler Hall is not yet complete. Even though a new ceiling was installed in the restrooms on the dress circle level (second floor) additional downtime and CIP funds are needed to remodel them. CFA&E plans to complete renovations on those restrooms next summer.

CITY COUNCIL

RECENT CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

- Granted a Special Exception to permit the operation of an eating and drinking establishment at 4408 Monarch Way.
- Granted a Special Exception to permit the operation of a gas station and automobile repair facility at 4902 Hampton Boulevard.
- Granted a Special Exception to permit the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption at 300 Monticello Avenue, Space 277.
- Granted a Special Exception to permit the sale of alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption at 435 Monticello Avenue.
- Accepted a grant of up to \$23,000 from the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company and appropriating the funds for Telecommunications and Technology Services for the Norfolk Public Library.
- Accepted a grant of \$292,001 (and the interest earnings estimated at \$13,000) to purchase police equipment and to pay police officers overtime for Crime Prevention Activities.
- Approved an ordinance approving the sales and purchase agreement for the acquisition of land at the intersection of Lowery Road and Lance Road. The land purchase will facilitate the relocation of the City's towing facility. The land is being acquired from Alfred E. Abiouness and Associates and the purchase price is \$1,300,000
- Approved an ordinance which amends certain provisions of the City Code Sections 27-45 through 27-50 regarding graffiti. The presence of graffiti is a public nuisance

and is viewed as unsightly. Research has proven that graffiti left unabated can create a sense of lawlessness in a community.

- The proposed ordinance:

1. Repeals 27-48 (requiring publication of notice prior to abatement by the City) and 27-50 (severability). The publication of notice requirement is deleted due to its cost and resulting time delay, and is replaced with a posting of notice requirement. The severability section is deleted since a general severability provision is found in another section of the City Code.
2. Amends 27-45 to allow for posting of a notice on the property in addition to service by mail or in person. In addition, the ordinance reduced the abatement period from 15 days to 5 days and reduces the penalty for failure to comply from a class 1 misdemeanor to a class 2 misdemeanor.
3. Provides for a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to a conviction for graffiti offenses.
4. Amends Section 27-47 to provide for a stream-lined procedure for placement of a lien in accordance with state law provisions.
5. Amends the community service provisions upon conviction to conform to state law changes.

- Granted a special exception to permit operation of an accredited massage facility at 1500 East Little Creek Road.
- Granted a special exception to permit expansion of a nonconforming structure at 3721 Wayne Circle.
- Granted special exception to permit the operation of a commercial drive-through at 2100 Colonial Avenue.
- Granted a special exception to permit operation of an eating and drinking establishment at 8275 Hampton Boulevard.
- Granted a special exception to permit infill development in a Ghent Historic and Cultural Conservation District on property which is not historically or culturally developed, located at 830 and 840 Redgate Avenue.
- Accepted \$531,059 grant from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs for the Aid to Localities Program.
- Authorized expenditure of \$25,530 from the Botanical Garden Society to pay for the design fees associated with the new bulkhead around the NATO Tower at Norfolk Botanical Garden.
- Denied a request for a special exception to permit the expansion of a nonconforming structure and nonconforming use at 4915 Newport Avenue and 601 Massachusetts Avenue.

- Granted a special exception to permit the operation of an eating and drinking establishment at 235 Granby Street.

CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

DiFilippo of the Norfolk Convention and Visitor's Bureau Receives ACOM's Executive Excellence Award. Anthony J. DiFilippo, President and CEO of the Norfolk Convention and Visitor's Bureau (Norfolk CVB), was nominated by fellow members of the Association of Convention Operations Management (ACOM) for the 2005 Executive Excellence Award. This award is presented to a general manager, president, CEO, or department director who demonstrates a commitment to quality in their organization's convention service operation.

An active and progressive leader within the hotel and hospitality industry, DiFilippo has contributed to a significant development in Norfolk's tourism since joining the Norfolk CVB in February of 2001. Prior to his current role, DiFilippo served as General Manager for Marriott, Hilton and Sheraton hotels in ten different cities throughout the United States. His most recent assignment was serving as General Manager of the Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel and Waterside Convention Center.

"Outstanding service is what can help set one city apart from another, and Tony is always willing to go above and beyond to ensure that all services are met" says Patricia Rawls, Chair of the Norfolk CVB. "Whether a military reunion with only 20 attendees or a conference with 1,000 plus, Tony has been known to write poems for groups and wear themed costumes during familiarization trip weekends."

Bob Ramsey, a meeting planner for Virginia Emergency Medical Services (VEMS) who has been holding their annual meeting Norfolk since 1997, says of Tony, "He is at the hotel everyday to check on our group when we are in town, calls during the year to assure everything is on track, and even invites me to his house for barbecue."

FIRE AND RESCUE

Norfolk Fire Rescue Holds Joint Exercise with Portsmouth Fire Department.

Norfolk's Fire-Rescue and Portsmouth Fire Department held their first joint full-scale exercise last week using structural collapse equipment purchased earlier this year with \$250,000 of grant funding from the Office of Domestic Preparedness. The grant funds, which were awarded based on joint application, purchased equipment designed to rescue victims that are trapped in a collapsed building caused by a bombing, a hurricane, or any other disaster.



Although the equipment is not sufficient to handle a large scale incident, it allows mobilization efforts to begin to carry out initial search and rescue operations until the arrival of federal assets through FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Program. Norfolk and Portsmouth are participating members in this federal program.

HUMAN SERVICES

Open Your Heart, Your Home and Share the Warmth - Adult Foster Care.

Sign up today to assist an adult in need. We are waiting to hear from you! The adult years are sometimes difficult; a time of transition, loneliness, anger, resentment or worry about major life changes.

Adult Foster Homes are a resource for elderly and disabled adults who may be victims of abuse, neglect or circumstances beyond their control, and often find themselves in need of a helping hand. Are you...

- Willing to give an adult in need your care, time and love in a family setting?
- Able to provide a safe and stable environment for an adult in your home?

Adult Foster Caregivers are:

- Provided with a stipend to defray the expenses of the adult's care
- An integral part of the coordination of community-based services
- Kept abreast of developments and new approaches to care-giving
- Afforded training opportunities
- Supported by a professional team of social workers

You can help!

Adult Protective Services/Adult Services (757) 963-9245
www.norfolk.gov/humanservices

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

City Network Engineer Joins An Elite World Group. The Microsoft Corporation has selected Ms. Kris Waters, Information Technology Network Engineer, as a recipient of its Most Valuable Professionals (MVP) award. Kris joins an elite group of 2,600 MVPs in 81 countries who have received this honor in the eleven years that it has been awarded by Microsoft. Microsoft's MVPs are individuals that have expertise in one or more Microsoft® products and who actively participate in online and offline communities to share their knowledge and expertise with other Microsoft customers.

POLICE

Bicycle Registration. The city requires all bicycles be registered. There is no charge. Bicycles can be registered twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week, at the Central Desk of the Police Operations Center at the Second Patrol Division, Virginia Beach Boulevard between Kingwood Avenue and Azalea Garden Road.



Police Assisted Community Enforcement Report from First Patrol Red Sector— Semi-Annual Report December 2005

- The target officers devote a large portion of time with citizen complaints and assisting codes, zoning, and the health department with environmental issues.
- Norfolk State Homecoming was a successful operation within the Red Sector which included the Traffic Division and precinct personnel. The parade was extremely successful along with the football game that evening, Norfolk State won the game. Large crowds attended both the parade and the games.
- Homearama 2005 was a great success. No significant incidents occurred throughout the month. The First Patrol provided 24 hour security. Traffic Control and Roving patrols proved to be successful. Corporal Mike Hall was the liaison officer from NPD and the TBA (Tidewater Builders Association) did an outstanding job. Several thousands attended this function from the surrounding Tidewater Areas.
- Red Sector/Blue bike sweeps occurred with combined officers from all the sectors. The following night, all officers participated in the Grand Illumination Parade in the Downtown area. This is an annual city event that occurs traditionally around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.
- BERKLEY—The Farm Fresh store opened in Berkley after 30 years of having no grocery store. The Southside Taskforce along with several community members were instrumental in this process. Along with the increase residential building, this is another one of the 30 success stories Southside has accomplished. There are plans in place for new condominiums units at the old Giant Open Air site, 300 Block Campostella Rd.

Current Goals and Activities:

During the next six months the Red Sector Target Team will continue to conduct criminal and environmental sweeps.

The Red Sector Core Team meets on the odd months consisting of people from diversified backgrounds, civic leagues, businesses, schools, churches etc. The Core team has great civic league participation which has increased citizen awareness and intervention. The Red Sector has three members who regularly attend the Citizens Advisory Board. The Red Sector has also assisted the Blue Sector in Huntersville and the Gold Sector with all the major events downtown including the Grand Illumination Parade.

The Red Sector will continue to work in concert with the civic leagues and partnership with all communities. The Broadcreek community has recently added a new development to the area in which a community resource officer is assigned to assist in the daily operation of that community.

The Red Sector will remain vigilant working with civic leagues to partnership with the NEAT Team. The Neat Team has eradicated several properties throughout the Red Sector. The Red Sector Team goal is to serve the citizens and promote safety to all the communities.

Southside: The Red Sector has conducted daily walking beats, on Manson St., Liberty St., Berkley Park Area, South Main St, and other sections of Southside. The Red Bikes have made numerous arrests in and around the various locations listed above. The target officers have assisted the business owners with trespassing letters allowing officers to make arrests on private property. The target officers in conjunction with codes and zoning have inspected several businesses and residents. Target officers obtain information from the civic leagues about the crime areas and share this with the district officers.

Broadcreek: The Red Sector has added a new development to the Broadcreek area in which encompasses the old Marshall Manor, Bowling Green, and Roberts Park communities. This area hosted the city's second Homerama in October 2005. The Red Sector has increased patrols focusing on Bowe Street, Dubose Drive, Kenton Avenue and Merrimac Avenue for drug sells, trespassing, and drinking in public. As a result numerous arrests have been made to address these problems.

Environmental Code Violations: There were numerous environmental issues such as junk vehicles, blighted properties and tall grass. There were expanded sweeps which consisted of every street in the Broadcreek are to identify and abate the codes violations enhancing the community for the city wide Homearama.

Ingleside: The Red Sector target officers have identified a group of young males loitering all night possibly involved in drug activities and vandalism. The majority of these problems are centered on the Ingleside Recreation Center. The Target

officer's goal is to increase the police presence in the area and conduct field interviews on these subjects or make arrests.

Brambleton: The Red Sector target officers have identified a pattern of robberies to the individuals. The Target officers have attended the Brambleton Civic League and gave updates to suspect information as well as educated the citizens to be aware of their environment. The district officers have been apprised of the information to increase patrols in the area. The Robbery investigators are interviewing several possible suspects involving these crimes. The police department is working in conjunction with Norfolk State University Police, codes, zoning and the Health department.

Environmental Code Violations: The Target officers continue to work with codes and health inspectors advocating the demolition of blighted structures and the revitalized community.

Criminal Enforcement of the business corridor the Brambleton Shop's, Park Avenue Shopping Center, and the surrounding area of Booker T. Washington High School. The police have stepped up patrols and are conducting field interviews. The police are arresting for prostitution and drug deals in the Douglas Park area. Our goal is to improve the quality of life for the neighborhood and foster a working relationship between the police and citizens. The Red Sector officers and the Red Bikes have worked in partnership with NSU to increase patrols and to educate students on how to reduce property crimes to vehicles.

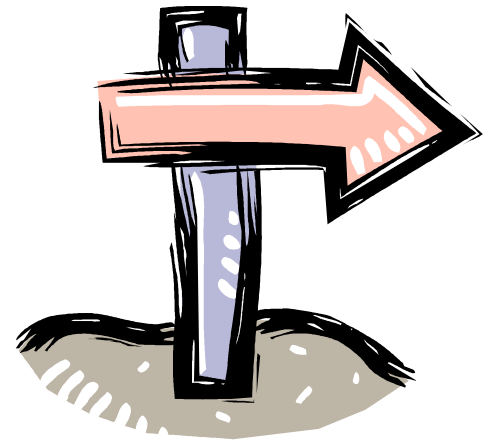
Community Resource Officers Program:

- The Community Resource Officer Program is now well into its 10th year of operation, in public housing communities.
- Since its inception this program has not only met but surpassed its goals of reducing crime and the fear of crime in the public housing communities.
- The highly successful community policing program continues to have a significant reduction of crimes in Norfolk's public housing communities and in turn those communities have become a much safer and enjoyable place to live.

PROJECT UPDATES

Downtown Street Closures. To accommodate the next construction phase of the Trader Tower, evening street closures will occur on an alternating basis on Plume, Granby and City Hall until September 2006. The Department of Public Works and the Downtown

Norfolk Council (DNC) are working closely to communicate these closures as well as other new construction activity and to develop signage to direct patrons through the area. Residents, visitors and businesses will be informed regarding these closures through the use of Public Works' weekly traffic information report (TIP Report), traffic channel (TV-46), and the DNC's "Fast Facts." Other outlets that are being considered include newspaper ads, utility bill inserts, and handouts at downtown and cultural events.

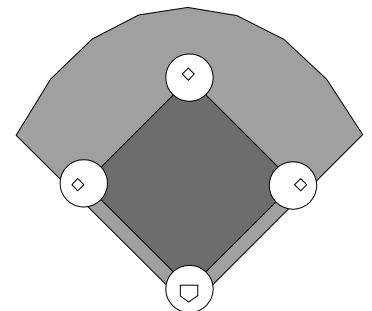


Building Permit Issued for 123 College Place. The City issued a building permit to 123 College Place also known as Harbor Heights for the construction of a 551,783 square foot mixed use development. The development, which includes office space for Tidewater Community College, a full service GW Market, 99 units of residential, and 317 parking spaces will contribute significantly to our goal of promoting a 24 hour downtown. The shell permit was issued on January 11th for a fee of \$102,618 plus. Please note that additional permits are required for the residential and commercial "build outs".

Production piles are almost complete. Work to the building can now begin. The project is scheduled for completion in spring 2007.

Possible Delay in Completing Work on Barraud Park's Field Of Dreams. Rain delayed the completion of the baseball field at Barraud Park. The ball field which is being renovated through a collaborative effort between the City and Baseball Tomorrow was originally scheduled for completion and available for play in early April 2006.

There is approximately two to three days worth of finish grading to be done before the freshly exposed topsoil is ready to receive grass sod throughout the outfield. Unfortunately, the contractor has been unsuccessful in trying to fit in those two to three days of work over the past several weeks due to substantial amounts of rainfall (over 1/2 inch in most cases). Additionally, the City's turf vendor has indicated that grass sod should not be planted after mid-December, or there is the possibility the sod may "not take". This could result in the loss of some sod over the winter. Staff is still attempting to meet that schedule, and to have the sod in place in the next two weeks. However, if the weather doesn't improve dramatically, the sod cannot be placed during December, and will have to be laid after March 15th. This will potentially push the field completion to late April.



East Beach and 800 Block Breakwaters. A project to install additional breakwaters along the shoreline in Ocean View is underway to reduce shoreline erosion. The breakwaters, which are placed offshore in relatively shallow water, are designed to reduce the energy of waves.

Currently, there are three breakwaters under construction in East Beach off 30th Bay Street. Once these breakwaters are completed, the contractor will restore a breakwater at 8th View Street in Willoughby. To date, there are 18 breakwaters that have been constructed in Ocean View. Public Works anticipates completion of the project in February 2006.

13th View Boat Ramp Work Nearing Completion. The south boat ramp and two finger piers at 13th View Street in Willoughby are now open. The ramp, which was totally destroyed by Hurricane Isabel, has been rebuilt. In an effort to immediately open the south ramp for public use, the contractor has temporarily connected the rebuilt ramp to the existing parking lot with stone. When warmer weather arrives, the contractor will replace the stone with asphalt.

Additionally, the contractor has relocated the mobilization area and has begun working on the north ramp. If weather permits, the anticipated completion of all work related to rebuilding the north ramp is projected to be completed by the end of January 2006.



PUBLIC WORKS

SPOTLIGHT: UNDERPASS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

❖ BACKGROUND BY UNDERPASS TYPE AND ISSUES:

1. Railroad and Vehicular Bridges
 - Norfolk Southern owns and maintains bridges on railroad underpasses.
 - All work on the railroad bridges requires coordination with Norfolk Southern
 - All remaining components are the City's responsibility to maintain
2. Retaining Walls
 - Massive concrete structures
 - Joints require repairs as joint material is old and deteriorating.
3. Depressed Roadways
 - Roadway Slabs
 - Joint repairs

- Failed concrete & structural slabs
- 4. Medians
 - Concrete is old and deteriorating.
- 5. Underpass Pump Stations
 - All stations have had some type of rehab completed since 1993.
 - Public Works continues to upgrade pump systems as funding allows through the Environmental Storm Water Fund.
- 6. Flood Warning Systems
 - Sometimes these areas will flood and be impassible due to: heavy rains exceeding pump capacities; power outages; and equipment failures.
 - Flood gauges to be installed that are more visible.
 - Allocated funds in FY06 to install a warning system in 1 or 2 underpasses that would provide advance warning to the Public of flood conditions prior to entering the underpass.
- 7. Lighting
 - Old incandescent fixtures, conduits often broken & blocked, etc.
 - Walkways are dark in most locations
 - Safety concerns
- 8. Aesthetics
 - Underpasses have significant architectural elements.
 - Walls and bridge elevations show signs of 50 years exposure to the environment, minor repairs, and spalling of concrete.
 - Existing color of concrete results from vehicle exhausts, mildew, rail traffic and concrete repairs.



❖ **UNDERPASS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GOALS:**

- Rehab structural elements to gain additional life from the pavements and concrete structures
- Improve transportation safety
- Improve lighting to address traffic and pedestrian safety concerns.
- Provide aesthetic improvements.

Monticello Avenue Underpass Project—Case Study:

- Costs for Monticello Avenue Project
 - Design: In-house
 - Expended: \$600,000
 - FY '06: \$350,000
 - Total Cost: \$950,000
- Includes repairs to median, roadway, retaining walls, lighting and aesthetics

Monticello Avenue Underpass FY '06 Planned Activities:

- Budget provided \$350,000 for additional work on Monticello.
- Planned work items include:
 - Additional joint repairs on walkways
 - Further pavement rehab
 - Sidewall evaluation and implementation as budget allows.

Sidewalls—Options:

- Pressure Washing
 - Least Expensive (est. \$100,000)
 - Must be done as preparation for next two items.
- Coatings
 - Polymer Cement Coating-durable coating that will hopefully stand the test of time; however, very expensive (Est. \$350,000)
 - Painting-less durable and will deteriorate, if not periodically repainted. May look worse than concrete after several years. (Est. \$150,000)
- Murals

❖ WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

- Greatest Structural Need
 - Brambleton Avenue
- Aesthetic
 - Brambleton Avenue

- Hampton Blvd.
- Virginia Beach Blvd.
- Tidewater Drive
- Tidewater/Little Creek
- Colley Avenue

❖ FUTURE PROJECTS:

- FY06
 - Finish Monticello
 - Planned to design Virginia Beach Blvd.
 - Shifted to Brambleton Avenue.
- FY07
 - Construct Brambleton Avenue as funding allows
 - Design next underpass as funding allows

Illegal Sign Removal Training Program Goes on Without a Hitch. Recently, City Council passed an ordinance authorizing citizens to remove illegally placed signs from the right of way. On Saturday, October 1, Public Works held the first Norfolk illegal sign removal training program at the Ernie Morgan Environmental Center.

The class which lasted slightly less than one hour was taught by Alice Kelly, Assistant Director of Public Works and addressed signs such as “We Buy Homes”, yard sales, real estate signs and work from home signs. A special appearance was also made by the Director of Public Works, John Keifer.

In attendance were 18 Norfolk residents who came to learn how to recognize illegal signs in the right-of-way, which signs to collect, and how to safely remove the signs. Residents were also provided several numbers to call to report issues such as: illegal signs too high to reach, graffiti and other cleanliness issues.

At the end of the program, residents received a wallet-sized illegal sign removal certification card. The next formal training program will be offered in the spring of 2006, but civic leagues and other groups can request training at any time.



Fire Rescue Training Class Puts Out Fires at Towing. On September 24, members of the fire and rescue training class #003 in the Norfolk Fire Department learned the techniques of exhausting vehicle fires at the Division of Towing’s lot. As part of their curriculum, the training class set ablaze an unwanted vehicle at Towing and then as a team, distinguished the fire. Two of Towing’s vehicles were used in the training, a Nissan Sentra and an eight-passenger van.

Sewells Point Road and Johnston's Road Gain a Split-Phase. Last year, the Chesapeake Gardens/Mamie Homes Civic League requested that a northbound left turn lane be installed at the intersection of Sewell's Point Road and Johnston's Road. Traffic counts were conducted at the intersection and an analysis was performed to determine the feasibility of installing a left turn lane. Rather than left turn lane, staff decided to install split-phasing along Sewells Point Road.

Split-phasing will allow the northbound and southbound left turning vehicles to turn without having to wait for a gap in the oncoming traffic. The left turning traffic will make their movement at the same time as the adjacent through traffic, while the opposing through traffic on Sewells Point Road will be stopped.

To accomplish the split phasing, the Division of Transportation's Signal Technicians had to build signal heads, replace the cabinet, and change the signal timing. With the changes, the northbound and southbound left turning vehicles can turn without having to wait for a gap in the oncoming traffic.

Waste Management Dead Animal Collection Program. If you have ever wondered what City agency is responsible for removing "road kill," look no further than the Division of Waste Management. Over the years, crews have collected diverse species of animals, including dogs, cats, foxes, pigs and deer, and even assisted the Coast Guard with a dolphin recovery.

When crews remove an animal carcass, they do it cautiously because of the stench, blood, and other unknown diseases that may exist. Prior to bagging, crews check for collars that may identify pet owners. Once removed, a carcass' final destination is the Pet Cremation Services of Tidewater in Virginia Beach.

Although the majority of the animal deaths are the result of "road kill," (vehicular accidents) some are the result of abuse and neglect situations, such as dogs killed in dogfights, or dogs that are chained to fences and die of malnourishment. "It really bothers me when I go to a scene and witness a dog that was abused," says Stevie Lloyd, Equipment Operator II. "When I can, I take time to console someone who has lost a pet not as the result of abuse." During the month of December, crews collected 39 animal carcasses.

Grand Illumination Parade is a Traffic Management Success. For the past few years, representatives from the Division of Parking, Norfolk Police Department and Division of Transportation have met in advance of large events scheduled for the Downtown Norfolk region such as, the Grand Illumination Parade.

In preparation for the Grand Illumination Parade, the group worked together on the following:

- Developed scheduled motorist information (freeway sign messages, portable changeable message signs on City streets, and messages on the Traffic Channel 46)

- Designed event ingress plans for accessing specific parking facilities
- Designed event egress plans for how vehicles would leave specific parking facilities
- Restricted movements on specific streets to improve traffic management.

In previous years, after downtown events, traffic back-ups lasted more than one hour due to the closure of certain intersections for safety purposes. This year, however, the team made additional modifications to traffic patterns, which resulted in no closures to the freeway ramp intersections. As a result, all parade-related traffic was out of downtown by 10:30 p.m.

Streets and Bridges Employees Prepare for the Season. Every year, Streets and Bridges' prepares for snow and ice removal. During the summer months, chemical spreaders and snow plows are scraped and painted by a Streets and Bridges' yard crew, aided by a summer youth worker.

During the fall and winter months, crew mount several dump trucks with chemical spreaders and snow plows in preparation for inclement weather.

The City's Storehouse also prepares for emergencies by receiving 400 tons of salt and 500 tons of sand.

Keep Norfolk Beautiful Cigarette Litter Results Are In. Three months ago, Keep Norfolk Beautiful (KNB) kicked off its "The Butt Stops Here" campaign in Wards Corner with pocket ashtrays and strategically-placed cigarette urns. The Wards Corner Business Association asked store employees to serve as "Butt Watchers." They were to reward smokers for keeping their cigarette litter off the street with free pocket ashtrays and coupons. Based on national pilot results, KNB had hoped for a 20% decrease, but the number is lower. The number of butts around storefronts where there are placement of urns and posters decreased significantly, while the curbs and gutters of the Little Creek Rd. and Granby St. intersection saw a marked increase. The higher number of butts in the curbs and gutters was likely due to the inaccessibility of cigarette urns to drivers in the corridor.

Look around, cigarette butts are everywhere. It is socially acceptable to throw them on the ground, making it the #1 source of litter in the United States. Each one takes up to 13 years to break down, releasing toxins into the soil and groundwater.

KNB will work with Business Association to tweak the program and increase its effectiveness.

Outfall Extensions will Improve Storm Water Drainage in Ocean View. Ocean View will be a little dryer thanks to a drainage improvement project at the beach. Crews will extend pipes that carry storm water from Ocean View to the Bay to enhance drainage. Over time, there was blockage of some of these pipes, which run under Ocean View Ave., along the beach, and empty into the Bay. The extension of the pipes into the Bay

should keep them well above the sand level for years to come. The improvements are at Grove and Beaumont avenues, and 1st and 27th Bay streets.

Design Division Proposals and Bid Awards:

The following companies received Notices to Proceed.

- Norfolk Fitness Witness Center—HVAC Improvements—Adira Construction, Inc.
- Bridge Bearing Assemblies—Cleaning & Painting—Town Hall Painting Corp.
- Blyden Library Roof Replacement—States Roofing Corp.

The following bid openings and awards were held for the period November 12-December 9, 2005.

- Miscellaneous Thermoplastic Pavement Markers—FY 2006—Virginia Sealcoat, Inc.
- Lafayette Library Partial Roof Replacement—J.D. Miles & Sons
- Small Projects—Site & Roadway Improvements—Branche Industries
- Crack/Joint Sealing Program—FY 2006—Swank Associated Companies

Towing and Recovery Activity. The Division of Towing and Recovery removed 540 vehicles in November. Vehicles were removed from City streets and neighborhoods for the following reasons:

125 Abandon vehicles
256 Police request
82 Stolen vehicles recovered
77 Nuisance vehicles

RECREATION, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

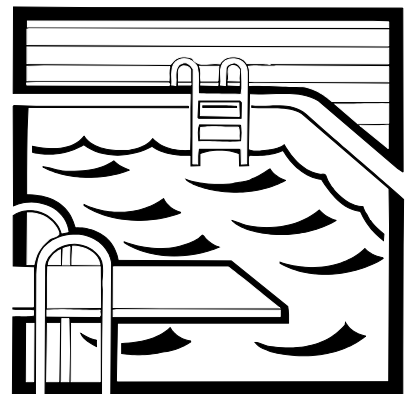
Last Year's "Summer Plunge" Results

Goal: Provide recreational activities for several underserved areas in the city: Ballentine, Coleman Place, Poplar Halls

Objectives:

- Building swimming readiness
- Emphasizing fun and safety in and around water
- Providing preparatory activities for swimming (i.e., water games, swimming lessons, etc.)

Highlights of program:



- Program locations included: Chesterfield Pool, Huntersville Pool, Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center Pool
- Secured bus transportation through Norfolk Public Schools
- Used the new Norfolk Public Service Youth Corp for staffing.
- Each community swam 3 days per week
- Swim Time—1.5 hours of free swim
- Participants were picked up at their community school
- Program marketed through the schools, local recreation center and door to door in each community.

Outcomes:

- Initial registrations-43 participants
- Total registrations at the end of six week program-70 participants

Program Cost:

- Cost to the city for bus monitors (summer youth program)-\$700
- \$3,105 for bus transportation (bus & drivers)

Program Survey Results:

- Participants were surveyed about the program: 93% rated the program excellent; 5% rated the program good; 2% rated the program fair.
- 99% of the participants would like the program to return the next year. 1% didn't know.

Lessons Learned:

- Start program earlier (June)
- Provide flyers to the schools prior to closing for the summer
- Expand the other pools and communities
- Provide lunch—USDA Summer Food program
- Allow more time for swimming
- Offer swimming lessons with some fees if necessary

Next Steps:

- City Administration will budget for an enhanced program in FY07 budget.
- Program will start in June 2006 after the school year ends.

IN THE COMMUNITY

SENIOR SERVICES AND THE CENTER FOR AGING ADVISE SENIORS TO JUST SAY NO TO UNSOLICITED MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SALES CALLS

-- Protect yourself by identifying and preventing fraud --

It's one thing to receive an unexpected telephone call from a friend or a gift package at your door. But when it comes to unsolicited Medicare and Medicaid sales calls, Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia and The Center for Aging advises seniors to just say no.

Each year, people lose millions of dollars to Medicare and Medicaid fraud, cons and scams – with little of the money being recovered.

"Criminals involved in these activities are looking your personal information, such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security numbers," said John Skirven, executive director of Senior Services. "Treat these numbers just as you would your credit card numbers; don't give them out to anyone unless you have solicited the service."

Senior Services and The Center for Aging also advise seniors to:

Be wary of individuals claiming to sell door-to-door prescription drug coverage insurance

- Record medical appointments and services, and check these items against monthly medical statements to make sure it is right
- Never provide personal information in exchange for "free" medical equipment or any other "free" offer
- Never accept medical supplies or equipment from a door-to-door salesperson
- Never sign a blank form
- If you suspect fraudulent activity – or if you have been the victim of fraud – contact Senior Services' Medicare Fraud Patrol at (757) 461-9481. As a free service, patrol members will investigate reports of Medicare and Medicaid fraud and help seniors receive the reimbursements they deserve.



The Virginia Department for the Aging publishes a free "Medicare & Medicaid Fraud, Waste and Abuse" brochure. Download the brochure at www.aging.state.va.us or call 1-800-552-3402.

About Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia -- A private, non-profit organization, Senior Services provides services for older citizens in Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and Isle of Wight and Southampton counties. Its headquarters and satellite offices offer everything from home-delivered meals for

qualifying seniors to caregiver support services and counseling for Medicare and Medicaid long-term care insurance.

About The Center For Aging – A partnership between Senior Services and the Norfolk Department of Human Services, The Center for Aging is the first “one-stop” resource and referral agency for seniors in Virginia. Now, seniors in need of services such as adult day care or home-delivered meals, available through Senior Services, may find that they also qualify for benefits administered through the Norfolk Department of Human Services, such as Food Stamps and Medicaid. Serving Norfolk residents, The Center for Aging offers efficient, personalized service in a professional, discreet environment.

Reach Senior Services and The Center for Aging at (757) 461-9481 or www.ssseva.org

ATTENTION HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGERS:

We all know that downtown Norfolk is a great place to work! We also know that sometimes new employees have some trepidation about working downtown. Help ease their concerns by including in their “new hire” package, a copy of the new brochure outlining the services of the Public Safety Ambassadors and the Safety Escort Program. The brochure outlines the service and has a tear-off business-card sized card for employees to carry in their wallet so they can keep the number handy.

To get copies for your existing employees or for your “New Hire” packages, email dnc@downtownnorfolk.org and we will be pleased to provide you with as many copies as you need.

DOWNTOWN NORFOLK PUBLIC SAFETY AMBASSADORS ASSIST HOMELESS

On December 8th, DNC’s Public Safety Ambassadors joined many others from the local community in supporting Norfolk’s first Project Homeless Connect. The initiative, coordinated nationally by the US Interagency Council on Homelessness took place in more than 20 cities and was designed to connect single homeless adults to the many services available to them in their local community.

The day was deemed a great success with 302 homeless clients served. 175 received medical screenings and 5 of these individuals were taken to the emergency room, 135 were registered with the Virginia Employment Commission; 10 persons were placed in permanent housing, 31 legal cases were processed and many other services were provided.

DOWNTOWN NORFOLK PUBLIC SAFETY AMBASSADORS PARTICIPATE IN DAY-LONG SEMINAR ON DEALING WITH HOMELESSNESS

In November, Downtown Norfolk Public Safety Ambassadors participated in a day-long meeting in Richmond where other Business Improvement Districts from throughout the State met with representatives of the Federal and State's PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) program.

The meeting was organized by the International Downtown Association working on a grant from the national office of Health & Human Services to develop training programs for downtown ambassadors on how to deal effectively with the homeless. DNC's program

was used as a model in the day's discussion. Attending this meeting from Norfolk were DNC's President, Cathy Coleman, Operations Manager, Rod McLeod and Public Safety Ambassadors, Lt. Dave Walker and Sgt. Valerie Kenny.

As a reminder...DNC's Public Safety Ambassadors start each work day with a "sweep" of downtown to find the homeless, offering assistance and moving the homeless from places where they should not be sleeping or where they are obstructing the public right-of-way. Anyone needing assistance with an issue involving the homeless is encouraged to call a PSA supervisor at 328-2771 or 478-7233.



TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE CULINARY PROGRAM IS ACCREDITED "FRONT OF THE HOUSE" TRAINING IS OFFERED

Tidewater Community College has been accredited by the American Culinary Federation's Accrediting Commission to award the Associate in Applied Science degree in Hospitality Management with a specialization in Culinary Arts. TCC is the only such accredited program in Hampton Roads and one of only three accredited programs in Virginia.

On the heels of this accreditation and in response to a request from the Downtown Norfolk Restaurant Coalition, TCC is now offering "Front of the House" training. Designed to support the restaurant community, the certificate program provides competency-based training in the key aspects and responsibilities of today's food servers and their managers. The course follows the guidelines established by the American Culinary Federation and is presented in eight sessions covering such topics as Quality Customer Service, Wine Service, Hospitality and Customer Perceptions plus a special "Train-the-Trainer" session for managers.

At the November meeting of the DNC Board of Directors, TCC was praised for their responsiveness in meeting the needs of the community. "A program like this not

only supports the restaurant community, it also enhances the reputation of downtown's service and dining options," said DNC president Ed Ladd.

Anyone interested in participating in this fee-based program should contact Chef Don Averso, TCC's Director of Culinary Arts. He can be reached at DAverso@tcc.edu.

SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS REGIONAL TASKFORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

The South Hampton Roads Regional Taskforce on Homelessness will hold the first Regional Conference on Ending Homelessness on Wednesday, Feb. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street. The Conference follows a commitment by regional leaders to address the issues that make securing permanent housing unattainable for many South Hampton Roads residents. These include increasing rents, disabling conditions, and lack of job skills.

The conference will include presentations on some of the most effective programs in the country as well as a keynote address by the top Federal official on homelessness. Homeless persons, service providers, program managers and national, local and state officials are invited to attend. Interested parties can register online at www.theplanningcouncil.org or in person at The Planning Council Office, 130 W. Plume Street in downtown Norfolk.

There is a \$50 registration fee per person to attend the conference. Scholarships are available for individuals that can demonstrate financial need.

For more information, contact Suzanne Puryear, president of The Planning Council, at (757) 622-9268 or via e-mail at spuryear@theplanningcouncil.org.

BECOME A CONFLICT COACH

You can help others work through conflict in a positive way! For more information, check out our website at www.conflictcrushers.com and look under "Volunteer Opportunities." Training is free!! January 31, 2006; 6-8 p.m. Community Mediation Center. Contact Kim Hopwood at 757-480-2777 or KimDSC@HamptonRoads.com for information or registration details.

The Community Mediation Center, a United Way agency and Hampton Roads' only non-profit mediation center provides education and services to build the capacity of youth, families, individuals, organizations, businesses and communities to more effectively resolve, reduce and prevent conflict.

THE NORFOLK FOUNDATION NEW DISCRETIONARY AND FIELD-OF-INTEREST GRANTS

- The Hermitage Foundation, a \$50,000 challenge grant to upgrade the Norfolk museum's electrical system.
- The Hurrah Players, \$9,900 for a Building Excellence grant for strategic planning.
- St. Columba Ecumenical Ministries, \$16,565 to repair four transitional housing residences in Norfolk that serve formerly homeless individuals.
- Todd Rosenlieb Dance, \$7,215 for computers and a \$33,000 matching grant for equipment for the new professional modern dance company based in Norfolk.
- Virginia Zoological Society, \$300,000 to help with an \$18 million expansion at the Virginia Zoo. It will include exhibits featuring gibbons, tapirs and lemurs as well as an animal hospital.
- FORkids Inc, \$24,000 in emergency funding to help expand the Norfolk homeless shelter's transitional housing program for families who are becoming self-sufficient.
- Virginia Ballet Theatre, \$15,500 to replace the hurricane-damaged floors in the region's professional ballet company.
- Eight organizations who were awarded \$201,906 in grants from the E.K. Sloane Fund to purchase pianos: Crispus Attucks Cultural Center in Norfolk; Governor's School for the Arts, Norfolk; Public Schools for Granby High School; Virginia Opera; Virginia Symphony
- D'Art Center, \$25,000 to purchase pottery wheels, kilns, tables and other equipment for the new visual art center in downtown Norfolk.
- The Planning Council, \$300,000 for Virginia Supportive Housing to convert a building in Norfolk into a 60-unit apartment building for homeless adults.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

ARTS COMMISSION

January/February 2006 Performance Schedule

The Norfolk Commission on the Arts and Humanities is pleased to announce the January/February performances in its *Arts Within Reach* series. From Berkley to Ocean View, from Park Place to Five Points, the Norfolk Arts Commission presents and supports **free** programs that bring great art to Norfolk communities. ***Arts Within Reach*** features free performances, workshops, and demonstrations in neighborhoods throughout the City. Get to know local artists while you enjoy their talent and creativity in a relaxed atmosphere.

January

31 (Tues.) 10 a.m. – **Virginia Opera** presents “Oh Freedom!,” a musical journey through history beginning with the African slave trade and ending with the civil rights movement of the 1960’s. *Norfolk Fitness & Wellness Center/Norfolk Senior Center, 7300 Newport Avenue. 664-4321*

Returning after three seasons of sold out tours, *Oh, Freedom!* Is a musical journey through history beginning with the African slave trade and ending with the civil rights movement of the 1960s. *Oh, Freedom!* uses music, history, and literature to depict the obstacles and triumphs in the journey for freedom.

February

15 (Weds.) 10:00 a.m. – **Virginia Ballet Theatre** presents **Spiritual to Gospel**. “Spiritual to Gospel” is a multi-media, chronological and stylistic celebration of 20th Century Black Composers. Six dancers, a live vocalist, slides and soulful music transport audiences on a fascinating and artistic perspective of some of the most important music in America’s history. *Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center/Norfolk Senior Center, 7300 Newport Avenue. 664-4321*

23 (Thurs) 11:30 a.m. – Young Audience’s of Virginia **Atumpan: Balla Fasseke and the Griots of Mali.** Storytellers Atumpan bring to life the glories of age-old Africa through the stories of Mali, which was for centuries the crossroads for great caravans of all the ancient kingdoms of Africa. *Mount Zion Baptist Church, 900 Middlesex Street. 664-4321*

Additional **free** performances in Norfolk for the month of February include:

1 – 3 pm Saturdays. D’ART Demos. D’ART Center presents local artists in weekly interactive arts demonstrations and workshops. *Selden Arcade, 208 E. Main Street. 625-4211*

4 (Sat.) 2 p.m. – Ron Fetner. This nationally known, award-winning songwriter will have your children collaborating to write a song. Great fun for all ages. *Van Wyck Library, 1368 DeBree Avenue. 441-2844*

11 (Sat.) 3 p.m. – Celtic Dance with Lisa Hunt. Award-winning dancer Lisa Hunt introduces audience members to the world of Irish step-dancing, and teaches participants ‘a step or two along the way.’ *Larchmont Library, 6525 Hampton Boulevard. 441-5335*

18 (Sat.) 2 p.m. – Tidewater Friends of Folk Music present Connie Ralston-Roberts: World Rhythm Workshop. Children and parents flock to this hands-on workshop, Where Connie uses drums from around the world to provide participants with the opportunity to learn and join in on universal rhythms. *Little Creek Library, 7853 Tarpon Place. 441-1751*

25 (Sat.) 2 p.m. – Tidewater Friends of Folk Music present The M&M’s. Mary Beth and friends will take children on a journey of folk, rock, and eclectic music, using activity and percussion to add to the fun...SWEET. *Janaf Library, 124 Janaf Shopping Center. 441-5560*

Arts Within Reach, produced by the Norfolk Commission on the Arts and Humanities, is a series of free performances showcasing Norfolk performing arts organizations and artists. The series introduces audiences to the arts in an informal atmosphere that encourages interaction between performer and audience. All *Arts Within Reach* performances are **free and open to the public**. Inquiries can be made at 664-4321

BOTANICAL GARDEN

EVENTS

Lecture -- Cultivating the Intellectual Landscape in Virginia
with Hampton University's Dr. Anne Pierce
Sunday, February 5th
2:00 p.m.

Walk & Talk – Path to the Past
Friday, February 10th
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

School Field Trip -- Back to our Roots – A Tribute to Local History
Friday, February 17th
10:00 a.m. – Noon

Concert & Brunch -- Gospel at the Garden
Sunday, February 26th
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Call (757) 441-5830 or visit www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org for more information.

CHRYSLER MUSEUM OF ART

SENIORS ART FORUM

The Seniors Art Forum is a senior citizens group that meets at 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month for a tour, discussion, and light refreshments. No reservations are necessary for individuals, but please call (757) 333-6268 for group reservations. Cost: included with Museum admission.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS:

Old Master Paintings from the Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Saunders, III
Kaufman Furniture Gallery
Ongoing

Photography Speaks
Alice R. and Sol B. Frank and David L. Hack Photography Galleries
Ongoing

Behind the Seen: The Chrysler's Hidden Museum
Norfolk Southern Large Changing Galleries
Through February 19, 2006

Civil War Photographs from the David L. Hack Collection

Alice R. and Sol B. Frank Photography Galleries

This exhibit features 50 extraordinary photographs from the Chrysler's collection, including such icons as Alexander Gardner's classic photograph *Lincoln and Tad*, haunting images of Andersonville and Gardner's dramatic series of the handing of the Lincoln conspirators in 1865.

February 3 through October 29, 2006

*** Exhibition Programming***

Sunday Surprise: Sunday, February 5, 2-5 p.m. Step into 19th-century America with living history interpreters, Civil War-era photography demonstrations by Rob Gibson, talks by Photography Curator Books Johnson and collector David L. Hack, period music by Southern Horizon, and hands-on activities.

Seniors Art Forum: Saturday, March 4, 2 p.m. Join other seniors for a lecture and discussion of the exhibition.

Lecture Series: Selected Wednesdays throughout the exhibition, 7-8 p.m.

- March 8: Images through a Pinhole-A 30-Year Overview featuring *Civil War Redux: Pinhole Photographs* by artist Willie Anne Wright
- April 19: The Best Photos on the Civil War in 3-D with Bob Zeller, President of the Center for Civil War Photography
- May 10: Waging the War on Saving the Past: The David L. Hack Collection of Civil War Photographs with Thomas M. Edmondson, Heugh-Edmondson Conservation Services, Kansas City, Missouri
- July 19: No Army Without Music: The Songs of the Civil War featuring Michael Lasser, host of the National Public Radio show *Fascination' Rhythm*
- September 27: Depicting Conflict: Art of the Civil War with Stephen May, independent historian and noted art, culture and historic preservation lecturer.

Tickle My Ears Storytelling: Thursday, May 4, 2006, 11 a.m. Experience the Civil War with your favorite pre-kindergartener during this interactive storytelling.

Military Appreciation Day: Saturday, May 20, 1-3 p.m. Join us for patriotic music and special tours of *Civil War Photographs*. Cost: Free to active duty/retired military and families with valid ID.

Film Series: Ken Burns' *The Civil War* (1990) Selected Saturdays throughout the exhibition, Enjoy Ken Burns' *The Civil War*, renowned video history of the war.

Warm It! Civil War Photographs from the David L. Hack Collection and Civil War Redux: Pinhole Photographs by Willie Anne Wright

The first in a Winter Concert Series, Thursday, February 2 at 6 p.m.; Acoustic music by Phil Friedman; Chrysler Members are admitted free; \$8 Non-Members; Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. The *Warm It!* Concert Series continues every Thursday in February. Member admission at each concert after February 2 is \$5; Non-Members are \$8; For Art's Sake Members are admitted free.

The Masterpiece Society presents

Masterpieces from an English Country House: The Fitzwilliam Collection

Norfolk Southern Large Changing Galleries

April 28 through August 13, 2006

CRISPUS ATTUCKS CULTURAL CENTER

EMERGENCE-SEE

Thursday February 23rd

7:30 p.m.

Daniel Beaty: Emergence-SEE! 2006 A slave ship emerges out of the Hudson River in front of the Statue of Liberty sending the nation into a whirlwind of emotion and exploration in this explosive solo tour de force featuring slam poetry, multi-character transformation and song. In Emergence-SEE!, the highly acclaimed solo show of award winning actor/writer DANIEL BEATY, Daniel portrays a cast of 40 characters ranging from an 11 year-old girl in the projects to the ghost of a 400 year-old African chief.

Tickets on sale now

Ticket Prices: \$15.00

(plus applicable service charges and facility fees)

Tickets are available at the Scope box office and all area Ticketmaster locations. Charge by phone at 757-671-8100, or online at www.ticketmaster.com

Attucks Theatre, originally built in 1919 as a mecca for entertainment and commerce, is one of Norfolk's seven venues and is located on Church Street. The newly restored, Attucks Theatre re-opened in the fall of 2004 and seats 624 people. For information on Attucks Theatre or the city's other venues, visit www.sevenvenues.com or call 757.664.6464

d'ART CENTER

d'ART Center, Selden Arcade 208 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510

ph: 757-625-4211 fax: 757-625-0670

Connect with the Visual Arts at www.d-artcenter.org

The d'ART CENTER is a regional, private, non-profit, visual art facility featuring 40 resident visual artists creating, displaying and selling original fine art. Our special events support the center's mission of connecting the public with the visual arts process.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES!

Having a birthday party, and need a cool activity for your guests? Call d'ART Center to arrange a private class for you and your friends for your big day and make your celebration an art occasion to member! We will suggest both artist and artistic activity that you can remember and enjoy all year. For children and adults. Call 625.4211 for scheduling and arrangements.



WEARABLE HEARTS ~ One Day WORKSHOP

Barbara and Fred Mason, Instructors

Students will work with pre-cut heart shapes in brass/copper, brass/copper/aluminum screen, beads, colored wire, markers, earring/pin findings. Students will apply textures, letter stamps, stitch with wire, drill, file and patina the precut shapes to embellish them.

1 Day: Sat. Feb. 4 1-4 PM

Tuition: \$21 Materials: \$15

d'ART Center -YOUR CONNECTION TO THE VISUAL ARTS!

See Artists At Work ~ This unique regional, private non-profit visual arts facility features more than 50 resident artists creating, displaying and selling original fine art. Free Studio Tours allow visitors to see sculptors, painters, jewelers, glass artists and potters as they work. Art is for sale and commissions are welcome. The d'ART Center offers adult and children's art classes and workshops. Changing art exhibits in five galleries feature local, regional and national artists. Located in the heart of downtown Norfolk in the historic Selden Arcade, 208 East Main Street.

FREE Admission, OPEN Tuesday - Saturday 10-6:00PM & Sunday 1-5PM, Art Demo's Saturday's 1-3:00PM. Contact 625-4211 or visit website www.d-artcenter.org.

FESTEVENETS

Friday, March 17, 2006

Cingular Wireless St. Patrick's Day Downtown Party at the Selden Arcade

Place: Selden Arcade, Main Street, Downtown Norfolk, Virginia

Time: 5 pm - 8 pm

Free & Open to the Public for information call 757.441.2345 or

www.festevetnsva.org

Produced by Norfolk Festevents and Sponsored with The City of Norfolk

Friday, March 31, 2006

Doo Dah Parade

Place: Downtown Norfolk, Virginia

Time: 12 Noon

Free & Open to the Public for information call 757.441.2345 or

www.festeventsva.org

Produced by Norfolk Festevents and Sponsored with The City of Norfolk

FIVE POINTS COMMUNITY FARM MARKET

OPEN ALL YEAR ON SATURDAYS ONLY

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Five Points Community Farm Market

Indoors - 1132 Norview Avenue - Norfolk

Farm Market 853-0300

<http://groups.hamptonroads.com/5PointsFarmMarket>

HOPE HOUSE FOUNDATION

HOPE HOUSE FOUNDATION WANTS TO SPREAD THE LOVE

FREE CONCERT WITH CHARLES DARDEN BAND AT GRANBY THEATRE

FEB. 10

Hope House Foundation presents "Love, Hope House" a free Valentine's Day concert featuring the Charles Darden Band, Friday, Feb. 10, from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the historic Granby Theatre, 421 Granby Street in downtown Norfolk.

"This event is to thank the Hampton Roads community for their continued support," says Lynne Seagle, executive director. "This Valentine's Day we want to return the favor by inviting the community to a free concert featuring one of our favorite crooners, Charles Darden."

Grab your sweetie and share the love as Darden swings, bebops, and croons his way through American standards from the days of Duke Ellington, Cole Porter and Frank Sinatra.

Wanna spread the love? Just spread the word. Everyone's invited to this love fest.

Hope House Foundation is a local not for profit organization providing supported living services to adults with developmental disabilities in Hampton Roads for over 40 years. For more information contact 757/625-6161 or visit our website at www.hope-house.org

HURRAH PLAYERS

Schedule

- *Amazing Grace* runs February 17-19
- Dr. Seuss' *Seussical... the Musical* runs weekends March 17-26 2006.
- The musical *Snow White Goes West* May 19-21.
- Closing the season will be *Shagging on the Beach*, a brand new beach musical revue running July 28-30.

For tickets and info call 627-5437 or Ticketmaster 671-8100. Or visit our web site www.hurrahplayers.com

Hurrah Players also offers theatre classes for ages 5 - Adult through the year and camps in the summer.

NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY

NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERS A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS IN HONOR OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH INCLUDING FESTIVAL OF ARTS MARKETPLACE

Join the library for a month long celebration featuring music, dance, stories, author visit, & more!

Norfolk, VA (Thursday, January 12, 2006) –In recognition of African-American History Month, Norfolk Public Library will offer its annual series of programs featuring music, author visits, art, dance, poetry, storytelling and more throughout the month of February. For the first time, the library's series of programs will feature a Festival of the Arts Marketplace and Book Sale on Sunday, February 5 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Kirn Memorial Library.

The Festival of the Arts Marketplace and Book Sale will feature African, Praise, Hip-Hop and Break Dancers, spoken word artists, singers, musicians, storytelling, face painting, a fashion show with African and American designs, and a marketplace where you can find fraternity and sorority paraphernalia, clothing, jewelry, dolls, figurines, and more. The Friends of the Norfolk Public Library will have a blow out book sale you'll never forget. Admission is free and all ages are welcome.

Highlights of the year's celebration include the annual youth art contest and a unique program called Freedom Quilts. In this exciting program, storyteller Eunice Jones weaves stories about the Freedom Quilts as she captivates everyone with her delightful tales. The entire family will enjoy this program at Larchmont Branch Library at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 1.

Other highlights include a gospel concert by the talented and spirit-filled professional group GIFTS. Don't miss the best in contemporary gospel music in town. Join the Library for this free performance at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 4 at Jordan-Newby Branch Library.

All Norfolk Public Library locations offer free parking. To receive 3 free hours of parking at Kirn Memorial Library, park in the MacArthur Center South garage, and bring your ticket to the library for validation. Kirn Memorial Library is located at 301 E. City Hall Avenue. Jordan-Newby Branch Library is located at 961 Park Avenue, and Larchmont Branch Library is located at 6525 Hampton Blvd. Other African-American History Month Programs are listed below. For more information or a complete listing of African-American History Month programs, visit www.npl.lib.va.us, pick up an African-American History Month Bibliography and Calendar of Events at any Norfolk Public Library location, or call 664-READ.

AAHM Programs at NPL:

African Trickster Tales: Preschool Storytime: 11:15 a.m., Wed., Feb 1. Enjoy lively tales featuring some very tricky characters. Do you think it pays to be tricky? Find out with these favorite stories from Africa about Anansi the spider and others. (This event is for 3 - 5 year olds.) Age Groups: Preschool. Lafayette Branch Library, 1610 Cromwell Drive. 757-441-2842

Freedom Quilts. 4:00 p.m., Wed., Feb 1. Story teller extraordinaire, Eunice Jones, captivates people of all ages as she weaves stories about the Freedom Quilts. Learn about a very important time in African-American history. Age Groups: Family. Larchmont Branch Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd. 757-441-5335

African American Bingo. 6:00 p.m., Wed., Feb 1. Test your knowledge of African-American History with a traditional game of "Bingo." Fun prizes and great snacks! Age Groups: All Ages. Kirn Library Youth Services, 301 East City Hall Avenue. 757-664-7323

Storyteller Eunice Jones presents African Dreams, Folktales from Africa. 6:30 p.m., Wed., Feb 1. Join us for stories, poems, and music in the oral tradition of African storytelling. Age Groups: Family. Pretlow Branch Library, 9640 Granby Street. 757-441-1750

African Tales. 11:00 a.m., Thurs., Feb 2. Anansi and his antic will tickle your funny bone. Be prepared to laugh at this funny tale: Anansi and the Talking Melon. Age Groups: Preschool. Van Wyck Branch Library, 1368 DeBree Avenue. 757-441-2844

Love...What Is It? 6:00 p.m., Thurs., Feb 2. Local African American author, Keela Boose will discuss her book, "The Book of Love: Eros/intros: a novel collection of Poetry and Prose" and the topic Love as it pertains to the family as well as the individual. Age Groups: Family. Horace C. Downing Branch Library, 555 East Liberty Street. 757-441-1968

Matunde Sakili African Dance & Arts Ensemble. 2:00 p.m., Sat., Feb 4. Matunde Sakili strives to unite and educate all people in the form of African Dance. Their performance consists of African Dance, live drummers, and storytelling. Age Groups: All Ages. Blyden Branch Library, 879 East Princess Anne Road. 757-441-2852

Festival of the Arts and Marketplace & Friends Book Sale. 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sun., February 5. Make our Festival your Pre-Super Bowl Extravaganza. Enjoy African, Praise, Hip-Hop and Break Dancers; spoken word artists, singers, musicians, storytelling, face painting, a fashion show with African and American designs, and a marketplace where you can find fraternity and sorority paraphernalia, clothing, jewelry, dolls, figurines, and more. The Friends of the Norfolk Public Library will have a blow out book sale you'll never forget. No admission charge! All Ages. Kirn Memorial Library, 301 E. City Hall Avenue, Norfolk. 757-664-7323.

Art of African-American Quilting. 4:00 p.m., Wed., Feb 8. Join us for this extraordinary look into the past. Joanne E. Cramatie is a founding member of the African-American Quilters Guild of Virginia. The purpose of the guild is to preserve, conserve and document the importance of African-American quilting, to keep the art of

quilting alive and to promote friendship, fellowship and a common interest. Age Groups: Family. Larchmont Branch Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd. 757-441-5335

Daddy & Me: Breakfast & a Book - "Follow the Drinking Gourd" Star Show. 10:00 a.m., Sat., Feb 11. Celebrate African History Month with a very special family morning. Jumpstart your day with our free pancake breakfast, then stay for Virginia Living Museum's traveling planetarium show of Jeanette Winter's classic story, "Follow the Drinking Gourd!" Join the museum's Dave Manis, as he helps us discover how a simple folk song sung by slaves was really a map to freedom through the escape route known as the Underground Railroad. Bring the whole family to share this unique event. Age Groups: Family. Lafayette Branch Library, 1610 Cromwell Drive. 757-441-2842

Interesting People Puppet Show: Famous African Americans from History. 1:00 p.m., Sat., Feb 11. The Blyden Puppeteers incorporate music and dance along with puppets in bringing to life the stories of figures like Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglas and Duke Ellington. Age Groups: Family. Van Wyck Branch Library, 1368 DeBree Avenue. 757-441-2844

Myrrh Cauthen-Show of Song, Drama and Dance. 3:00 p.m., Sat., Feb 11. Don't miss this dynamic show. Producer, singer, Stage Manager, Actress Cauthen appeared in the film "Crazy Like a Fox" and HBO's "The Wire." Age Groups: All Ages. Blyden Branch Library, 879 East Princess Anne Road. 757-441-2852

Tell Me a Story. 3:00 p.m., Sat., Feb 11. Storytelling with Barbi Willey. In celebration of Black History Month, come listen and hear stories from different parts of Africa. Age Groups: All Ages. Jordan-Newby Branch Library, 961 Park Avenue. 757-441-2843

An Afternoon with Elbert Watson. 3:00 p.m., Sun., Feb 12. Norfolk native Elbert Watson, former principal dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, brings his dance mastery to the library through a program based on American Negro spirituals. He has taught ballet, modern jazz, and liturgical dance in colleges and schools, both locally and throughout the world and is currently the Dance Master at Norfolk Academy. Age Groups: All Ages. Kirn Library Youth Services, 301 East City Hall Avenue. 757-664-7323

Unique Book Marker. 4:00 p.m., Thurs., Feb 16. Let's design an African-American book marker full of black historical facts; a keepsake forever. Age Groups: School Age. Horace C. Downing Branch Library, 555 East Liberty Street. 757-441-1968

Martin Luther King, Jr. 4:00 p.m., Thurs., Feb 16. We will talk about the life and legacy of this great man. Age Groups: School Age. Barron F. Black Homework Center, 6700 E. Tanners Creek Drive. 757-441-5806

Juneteenth Players Present - The 2 Harriets. 2:00 p.m., Sat., Feb 18. Harriet Beecher Stowe and Harriet Tubman reminisce in song and memory about their lives. Blyden Branch Library, 879 East Princess Anne Road. 757-441-2852

The Tuskegee Airmen Visit Park Place. 2:00 p.m., Sat., Feb 18. The Tuskegee Airmen saw combat in over 1500 missions while escorting bombers across Europe and Africa during World War II. Never losing any of those aircraft to enemy fire, they are the only unit from WWII to hold this distinction. The Airmen were instrumental in the U.S. government's decision to desegregate the military in 1948. Age Groups: All Ages. Park Place Branch Library, 620 West 29th Street. 757-664-7330

Matunde Sakili African Dance & Arts Ensemble. 2:00 p.m., Sat., Feb 18. Matunde Sakili strives to unite and educate all people in the form of African Dance. Their performance consists of African Dance, live drummers and storytelling. Age Groups: All Ages. Janaf Branch Library, 124 Janaf Shopping Center. 757-441-5660

Connie Ralston-Roberts: World Rhythm Workshop. 2:00 p.m., Sat., Feb 18. Children and parents flock to this workshop. Hands on with drums from around the world...the beat goes on. Age Groups: All Ages. Little Creek Branch Library, 7853 Tarpon Place. 757-441-1751

Meet the Author - Julian Houston. 3:00 p.m., Sat., Feb 18. In his first book, *New Boy*, Julian Houston tells the story of a teenage boy confronting the normal adolescent concerns of grades, girls, and parental control while at the same time grappling with the larger issue of what it means to be African American in Charlottesville in the 1950s. Mr. Houston has previously written articles for the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Observer*, and the *Boston Bar Journal*. He will speak to the audience about his book which will be available for purchase and signing. Age Groups: All Ages. Kirn Library Youth Services, 301 East City Hall Avenue. 757-664-7323

Your Crown and Glory. 6:00 p.m., Tues., Feb 21. Some people say that your hair is your Crown and Glory. Braid, plats, twists, and cornrows are the in-thing, especially with the younger generation. Enjoy an enlighten evening and discover the history behind these hair styles. Licensed hair stylists will be available to answer questions on proper hair care. Age Groups: Teens. Blyden Branch Library, 879 East Princess Anne Road. 757-441-2852

Matunde Sakili African Dance & Arts Ensemble. 4:00 p.m., Wed., Feb 22. Matunde Sakili strives to unite and educate all people in the form of African Dance. Their performance consists of African Dance, live drummers, and storytelling. Age Groups: All Ages. Larchmont Branch Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd. 757-441-5335

African Masks. 4:00 p.m., Wed., Feb 22. Learn more about tribal masks and their meanings. Make your own mask and take it home with you. Age Groups: All Ages. Larchmont Branch Library, 6525 Hampton Blvd. 757-441-5335

Elderspeak Forum: Norfolk History with B. T. Washington's Class of '38. 3:30 p.m., Thurs., Feb 23. Join us for a delightful afternoon, learning the history of Norfolk as seen through the eyes of some of Norfolk's greatest treasures... our elders. They've grown up here, lived through wars, social and economic change, seen the change of the landscape and communities, and shared in the advent of the electronic age. They have a rich perspective to share! Come learn about Norfolk's past, discuss the present, and share together your hopes for Norfolk's future. Bring your family; enjoy refreshments. Age Groups: School Age. Lafayette Branch Library, 1610 Cromwell Drive. 757-441-2842

African American History Family Event: Atumpan. 6:30 p.m., Thurs., Feb 23. Performing as musicians and storytellers, Norfolk's fabulous Atumpan presents African tales that everyone will enjoy. Join us for lots of drumming, tales to delight you, and audience participation, too. Age Groups: Family. Lafayette Branch Library, 1610 Cromwell Drive. 757-441-2842

Second Annual African-American History Month Quiz Bowl Championship. 11:00 a.m., Sat., Feb 25. The remaining three library teams compete in an exciting championship round. Come out and enjoy the finale to see which team will take home the trophy! Age Groups: All Ages. Kim Library Youth Services, 301 East City Hall Avenue. 757-664-7323

Park Place Gospel Concert. 2:30 p.m., Sat., Feb 25. Join us for a joyous afternoon of gospel music featuring the Butts Family, Bank of America Gospel Choir, Armageddon, and others. Age Groups: All Ages. Park Place Branch Library, 620 West 29th Street. 757-664-7330

Afrikan Kingz and Queenz. 4:00 p.m., Sun., Feb 26. Join Sheri Bailey and the Juneteenth Players as they present Afrikan Kingz and Queenz, a musical comedy of Egyptian Squares featuring Hannibal, Cleopatra VII and others in a game of X's and O's. Age Groups: Family. Barron F. Black Homework Center, 6700 E. Tanners Creek Drive. 757-441-5806

Fit for a Nubian Queen. 6:00 p.m., Tues., Feb 28. Earrings and jewelry - we proudly adorn ourselves with them almost everyday. Join us as we create a beautiful pair of African style earrings. Supplies are furnished. Make and take workshops. Age Groups: School Age, Teens, Family. Blyden Branch Library, 879 East Princess Anne Road. 757-441-2852

MACARTHUR MEMORIAL

New Special Exhibit Features Selections From The Macarthur Memorial's Extensive Collection Of World War I And World War II Posters

One of the most powerful and popular communication tools used during World War I and World War II was the poster. By combining advertising and art, private organizations, government agencies and businesses were able to create posters that embraced the American spirit. Images and slogans were designed to evoke a deep sense of family devotion, loyalty to country, traditional values and fear. They called upon every American to wholeheartedly support the war.

America Calls: Poster Art of World War I and World War II features original World War I and World War II posters from the United States, Great Britain, Canada and France that depict the different facets of propaganda used during the era. John Montgomery Flagg, Norman Rockwell and Howard Chandler Christy are among the many well-known artists whose works are exhibited.

In the time before television and radio were found in every home, posters were the most commonly used form of advertising. During times of war, posters were found on nearly every storefront, window and fence. The messages they carried varied from military recruiting efforts to promoting the sale of war bonds to urging conservation of food and other supplies needed for the war effort. The number of posters produced during the World Wars in the United States alone is estimated to be in the millions and in thousands of different designs. While some of the most well-known posters were produced by the U.S. government, businesses such as General Motors also produced patriotic posters for use in its factories to boost employee morale.

Because of the sheer numbers of posters produced during the World Wars, they were popular souvenirs for soldiers and civilians alike, and they remain popular items with militaria collectors as well as art collectors today. Some posters, such as Norman Rockwell's popular *Four Freedoms* series and John Montgomery Flagg's Uncle Sam images, are quite valuable on the collector's market. However, because posters were mostly mass produced, in some cases on inferior paper, they are quite fragile and difficult to find in excellent condition.

The MacArthur Memorial has approximately 450 war posters in its collection, many of which were purchased by the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation in 1974 from noted poster collector Paul Keith. Other posters in the museum's holdings come from a variety of sources, including MacArthur admirers, soldiers who fought under his command, and an interesting collection given to the Memorial by the Larchmont Branch of the Norfolk Public Library.

America Calls is a colorful and patriotic exhibit that reflects a nation's struggle for freedom.

The MacArthur Memorial is open Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. The museum is closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Admission is free.

New Exhibit At The Macarthur Memorial Commemorates The 60th Anniversary Of The Liberation Of Civilian Internment Camps In The Philippines During World War II

More than 60 years ago, over 5,000 civilian men, women and children were imprisoned in internment camps following Japan's occupation of the Philippines during World War II. A three-year struggle for survival ensued as these internees endured crowded living conditions, disease, limited medical supplies, heavy labor, tension, uncertainty, and near starvation.

On April 23, 2005, the MacArthur Memorial opened a special exhibit in honor of the internees, and the soldiers and civilians who saved them. The exhibition, which will be on display through February 28, 2006, examines the Philippines before the Japanese invasion and what characterized life for both the native Filipinos and the foreign-born residents. Focusing on the three major internment camps, Santo Tomás, Los Baños and Baguio, the exhibition offers insight into the internees' initial contact with their captors and their daily lives during confinement. While some succumbed to death, others with the help of the Filipino civilians and their own sheer will were able to survive until their eventual liberation in February of 1945.

Make a Holiday Card for a Soldier at MacArthur Memorial. The MacArthur Memorial invites children and adults to come to the memorial's theatre to create a holiday card for soldiers overseas.

Supplies and materials are provided free of charge, and the public is invited to stop by from 10 A.M. – 5 P.M. Monday through Saturday 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Sunday. We will collect all the cards submitted and give them to the American Red Cross for mailing and distribution. The card activity will end on Friday, December 16.

In addition, materials to make a seasonal tree ornament will be available and the public is invited to help decorate the Memorial's tree.

The Memorial is located in downtown Norfolk on the corner of City Hall Avenue and Bank Street. Parking is available directly across the street at the MacArthur Center South Parking Garage, and patrons may bring their parking stub to the Memorial for validation good for up to three hours of free parking.

NAUTICUS

JANUARY HOURS OF OPERATION:

In order to facilitate several improvements to The National Maritime Center (TNMC), including the installation of *Seascapes*, installation of a NOAA Chesapeake Bay Estuary exhibit, and installation of the *Treasures of NOAA's Ark* exhibit, TNMC's operating hours for January will be as follows:

Nauticus will continue to accommodate school children who visit as part of previously arranged school system contract as well as other previously booked school groups. Special event rentals will also continue.

Nauticus & Iron Whale Café

Weekdays: Closed.

Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday: Noon-5 p.m.

Battleship Wisconsin & Banana Pier Gift Shop

Weekdays: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (*weather permitting, Tuesday-Friday; closed Mondays.*)

Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday: Noon until 5 p.m.

Hampton Roads Naval Museum

Weekdays: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday: Noon-5 p.m.



Traveling Exhibit

March through August 2006

Treasures of NOAA's Ark.

This exhibit, in a setting reminiscent of a 1930s warehouse, will showcase more than 200 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) artifacts including survey instruments, chronometers, aeronautical charts, maps, photographs, and more.

Ongoing Programs (*Special times for January*)

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.

Shark Feeding. Watch Nauticus' live sharks eat as you learn about shark behavior and ecology!

Weekends; 11:30 a.m. (Sat. only), 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.

Shark Touch. What does a shark's skin feel like? Find out at Nauticus' Shark Petting Lagoon, where you can touch the back of a warm-water Nurse Shark. Sharks in the Lagoon vary in length from two to three feet.

Weekends; 1 p.m.

Cool Science. Liquids boiling without a stove! Gases turning into liquid! Balloons exploding with bright flashes of light and heat! These are a few of the amazing hands-on experiments you can see in this program sponsored in part by BOC Gases.

Saturdays; 11 a.m.

Grando Electro Show. Experience the science of static electricity, sparks, and electrical charges in a safe and controlled manner. You'll get a "charge" out of it!

Weekends; 12:45 p.m.

Kiddie Tidepool & Storytime. Geared toward early learners, this program explores the ecology of the Elizabeth River. Plus, enjoy a special reading of a maritime-related story.

Weekends; 11:45 a.m. (Sat.) & 3:45 p.m.

NOAA Science On a Sphere Presentation. Enjoy this exciting and interactive presentation on our newest exhibit, Science On a Sphere. Explore the Earth's surface and learn about weather patterns, how hurricanes are formed, climate conditions around the world, and much more!

Weekends; 11:15 a.m. (Sat.), 12:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 4:15 p.m.

Aegis. Aegis is an ancient word for shield. It's also the name of the Navy's hi-tech protection system used by destroyers to form a 250-mile-radius shield around a naval battle group. This specially designed command center theater simulates a battle situation, allowing you to feel the weight of command as you make hair-raising, snap decisions.

No show times during January.

Design Chamber: Battleship X. Inside this multi-media interactive theater, match wits with America's best ship designers on the eve of World War II in a race against time to create the greatest battleship ever. If you are a tactical genius, this is the place to show it.

Digital High-Definition Films

Weekends; 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m.

Stormchasers. This powerful and exhilarating digital high-definition film stars hurricanes, monsoons, and tornadoes. Will be shown multiple times in Nauticus' state-of-the-art, digital high-definition theater. \$5 general admission (\$3 admission for Nauticus members or with ticket purchase). Call (757) 664-1000 for additional information.

***The Living Sea movie is no longer shown daily in the Nauticus Theater. Special arrangements will be made for large groups. Please call (757) 664-1074 for more information.**

NEIGHBORHOOD AND LEISURE SERVICES

Oceanview Senior Center Activities

Regular Events:

Wednesdays

60+ Club Business Meeting 11:00a.m.

Featuring Card games, BINGO, Ballroom Dancing, Hot Meal

Thursdays

Line Dancing Class 11:00a.m.

Tuesdays

Square Dancing 6:30p.m.

Fridays

Square Dancing 10:30a.m.

Mon-Fri

Nutrition Program 10:00a.m.

Staff Assistance is provided each month to permit groups such as civic groups, Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club and Mayors Task Force.

POLICE MUSEUM

Grant Family Treasures Boost Museum Collection; Farewell, Best Wishes to Chief C.D. Grant

For nearly a century, the Grant family has been dedicated to Norfolk public safety. Charles A. Grant became a Norfolk police officer in 1912 and served close to 35 years. His son, Charles D. Grant, was sworn as an officer in 1946 and worked his way up through the ranks to become chief. He retired after 39 years. Chief Grant's wife, Dorothy, was a NPD crossing guard. The Chief's son, Drew, also served as a Norfolk police

officer, and his other son, Don, is presently a Norfolk Fire-Rescue battalion chief. C.A. Grant, C.D. Grant, and Drew Grant all wore the same badge set, #151.

Many museums have what is known as a core collection, a basic collection around which a museum grows. When I became NPD Curator in 2000, there were fewer than 300 NPD and Norfolk historical items in the Museum collection. Chief Grant, Dorothy, Don and Drew generously donated the Norfolk Police Museum. This major gift coupled with the existing Museum holdings formed our families, successfully seeking important additions to our collection. Through his efforts and the efforts of numerous others, our collection has grown to more than 5,000 artifacts, documents, and photographs.

After 85 years, Chief Grant left Norfolk on November 30, 2005 to live with Drew and his family in Colorado and Don and his family in Chesterfield County, Virginia. He will be sorely missed. God bless, and God speed.

There are numerous Grant family items currently on display in the Museum, including the badge set. Located in the Police Administration Building, the Norfolk Police Museum exists for you. If you are not able to visit the museum during the normal hours of 0800-1700, Monday through Friday, just e-mail jim@melchor.us or call 423-6592. Special arrangements will be made to open the museum for NPD family members at night, on weekend, or on holidays.

SENIOR CITYWIDE EVENTS

Senior Citizens Sweethearts on Parade. Thursday, February 9, 2006; 1:00-3:30 p.m.; Fairlawn Community Center; 1014 Kempsville Road, Norfolk, VA 23502

Registration Deadline: Thursday, February 2, 2006

Please contact Jean Saunders at 441-2109 for additional information. If you have a hearing impairment, please utilize the Virginia Relay Center at 1-800-828-1120.

VIRGINIA OPERA

Virginia Opera presents Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro"

Feb. 3, 2006 (8 p.m.)

Feb. 5, 2006 (2:30 p.m.)

Feb. 8, 2006 (7:30 p.m.)

Feb. 10, 2006 (8 p.m.)

Feb. 12, 2006 (2:30 p.m.)

Tickets from \$25-\$90

757-623-1223 (Southside), 757-877-2550 (Peninsula), www.vaopera.org

Virginia Opera celebrates 250 years of Mozart with this lively production of his immortal "The Marriage of Figaro," a boisterous romantic comedy that, to this day, remains one of the most entertaining operas ever composed. Sung in Italian with English Supertitles. Performances on Feb. 3 at 8 p.m., Feb. 5 at 2:30 p.m., Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 10 at 8 p.m., and Feb. 12 at 2:30 p.m. at the Harrison Opera House. Tickets start at \$25, call 757-623-1223 (Southside) or 757-877-2550 (Peninsula), or visit www.vaopera.org to purchase.

Brief Synopsis: Servants Figaro and Susanna are preparing to wed, but their philandering employer, Count Almaviva, wants Susanna for himself. In the meantime, the pageboy Cherubino is courting the Count's wife while the Countess's former governess, Marcellina, is wooing Figaro, and all are secretly scheming to win their heart's desire. In the end, Figaro gets his bride, but Mozart leaves us to ponder whether love conquers all.

Join Virginia Opera 45 minutes prior to the start of performances (except opening night) for free "Opera Up-Close" presentations that explore the inner-workings of this masterpiece.

Opera InSight: "Norma"

Feb. 28, 2006 (7 p.m.)

FREE ADMISSION

(City of Norfolk may charge for parking)

Get a peek behind the curtain when you join Virginia Opera for free on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. for a lively talk-show format discussion, hosted by WHRO radio personality Taylor Green, that takes a look inside the workings of Bellini's powerful "Norma." Featured guests include cast and artistic staff from Virginia Opera's upcoming production. A perfect introduction for beginners, a welcome diversion for aficionados. Admission is free (City of Norfolk may charge for parking). RSVP recommended, not required, at 757-627-9545 ext. 3326.

Operatini Night

March 8, 2006 (5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)

FREE ADMISSION

Come mix it up with young professionals and singles in Hampton Roads at Virginia Opera's final "Operatini Night" of the season on March 8 at 5:30 p.m., featuring live music, original "Operatini" martinis, beer, wine, and free food and non-alcoholic beverages provided by [Scotty Quixx](#). 21 & up. ID required. Charge for alcoholic

beverages only. Cash-only event. Admission is free with suggested \$2 donation (City of Norfolk may charge for parking). RSVP recommended, not required, at info@vaopera.com.

Virginia Opera presents Bellini's "Norma"

March 17, 2006 (8 p.m.)

March 19, 2006 (2:30 p.m.)

March 22, 2006 (7:30 p.m.)

March 24, 2006 (8 p.m.)

March 26, 2006 (2:30 p.m.)

Tickets from \$25-\$90

757-623-1223 (Southside), 757-877-2550 (Peninsula), www.vaopera.org

Virginia Opera presents "Norma," the powerful and heart-wrenching tragedy of the Druid priestess torn between love and duty. Sung in Italian with English Supertitles.

Performances on March 17 at 8 p.m., March 19 at 2:30 p.m., March 22 at 7:30 p.m., March 24 at 8 p.m., and March 26 at 2:30 p.m. at the Harrison Opera House. Tickets start at \$25, call 757-623-1223 (Southside) or 757-877-2550 (Peninsula), or visit www.vaopera.org to purchase.

Brief Synopsis: Set in ancient Gaul, Norma tells of the clash between the Druids and the occupying Romans. While the Druids plan a revolt against their oppressors, the priestess Norma wrestles with her own inner demons, as she attempts to win back the love of the Roman pro-consul Pollione, whose children she has secretly borne. She must face the tragic destiny that this conflict between love and public duty sets in motion.

Join Virginia Opera 45 minutes prior to the start of performances (except opening night) for free "Opera Up-Close" presentations that explore the inner-workings of this masterpiece.

Harrison Opera House--160 East Virginia Beach Blvd.--Norfolk, VA 23510

VIRGINIA STAGE COMPANY

VSC LAUNCHES NEW ADULT OUTREACH PROGRAM WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF STOWAWAY

Virginia Stage Company launches a new adult outreach program with the world premiere of *Stowaway*, a touring production about the Yellow Fever Epidemic of

1855, written and directed by Neal Easterling. *Stowaway* is inspired by the 1855 Yellow Fever epidemic in Norfolk that originated from a single ship, the Benjamin Franklin, and killed over one-third of the population in Hampton Roads. By November of that year, half of the surviving population fled the ravishes of this plague, leaving only a tiny part of the area's living population around to bury the mountains of bodies left at graveyards all over the city. The play takes accounts from historical records and mixes it with modern day concerns over epidemic diseases and their ports of entry into our country.

Stowaway opens on February 10, 2006 at The National Maritime Center (Nauticus) in Norfolk, VA. *Stowaway* will be performed on Friday, February 10 at 7pm, Saturday, February 11 at 2pm and Sunday, February 12 at 2pm. Subsequent performances will be held at the Mariner's Museum and Merchant's Square in Williamsburg. Dates and times are currently being finalized. Admission to all performances of *Stowaway* is free. For tickets to the performance at Nauticus, please go to their visitor's center on the first floor.

Stowaway is a historical drama written in six independent vignettes with a total running time of approximately 40 minutes. The actors featured in *Stowaway* are members of Virginia Stage Company's Emerging Artist Ensemble.

Neal Easterling is in his second season as Director of Education and Outreach at Virginia Stage Company where he has been working for the past 3 years. He has taught numerous classes to middle and high school students at various institutions including the Virginia Governor's School of the Arts and Stagedoor Manor, an internationally known summer training camp in the Catskill Mountains. Directing credits include: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Garden of Rikki Tikki Tavi*, *The Story of Jumping Mouse*, *Wiley and the Hairy Man* and *Cat's-Paw*, Virginia Stage Company, *The Jewish Wife* and *Batter the Doom Drum*, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, *Deflores* and *Oleanna*, Theatre South Carolina, *Song of Survival*, *The Women*, and *The Imaginary Invalid*, Stagedoor Manor, and *Hamlet*, Hampton Roads Shakespeare Festival. His production of *Goodly Creatures* with Virginia Stage Company and The Governor's School for the Arts was touted by The Virginian-Pilot as "...one of the all-around finest shows to hit Hampton Roads in ages." He holds a BA in Theatre with a focus in Directing from the University of South Carolina.

ZOO

Does Your New Year's Resolution Call For Volunteering? The Virginia Zoo Can Help!

The Virginia Zoo is offering a Docent Training Program for those volunteers interested in educating the public about our mission.

Because of their high visibility, Zoo docents have a special opportunity to share their enthusiasm about animals and the Zoo. The Docent Training Program provides a

basic preparation for this work through an educational program followed by an animal handling course and mentorship with experienced docents.

Docent training begins in January. For more information about this hands on experience or to reserve your spot in the Virginia Zoo's docent training class, please call Pat Clark at 441-2374 ext. 225 or send her an email to Patricia.Clark@norfolk.gov.

As an accredited American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) facility, your Virginia Zoo exhibits over 350 animals, beautifully manicured grounds and offers a fun-filled day for all. For more than a century, the Virginia Zoo has demonstrated a commitment to wildlife, conservation and education. Your Virginia Zoo is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and located at 3500 Granby Street in Norfolk. Daily admission prices are \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors (age 62 and over), and \$4.00 for children ages 2-11. Visit www.virginiazoo.org or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.